

HOW TO  
KEEP



HOUSE

W. W. W. W. W.

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CONTAINING  
THE GRANDEST COLLECTION  
OF  
Household Recipes

EVER PUBLISHED, AND ABOUNDING IN USEFUL  
INFORMATION FOR EVERYBODY.

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THIS LITTLE BOOK WILL TEACH YOU

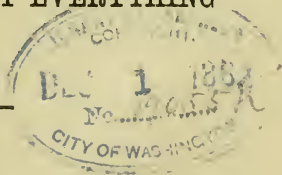
How to Keep House, Preserve Your Furniture, Make  
Useful Articles, Mend Your Crockery, Make  
Candy, Wine, Beer, Cologne, Eradi-  
cate Freckles and Pimples,

IN FACT

TEACH YOU TO DO ALMOST EVERYTHING

*By Anna A. Warford.*

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NEW YORK:  
FRANK TOUSEY, Publisher,  
34 AND 36 NORTH MOORE STREET,

TX 53  
W27

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# HOW TO KEEP HOUSE.

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## SYSTEM.

EVERY young housekeeper who sits down and seriously studies out the subject will find herself a different being if she manages her affairs with system, or if she lets them manage her without it. It is true that before she is married, all her study on the subject will be theoretical, and possibly somewhat impractical, and something like the house one builds and is enchanted with till coming to live in it. For there are things that only experience can teach, and in matters where the experience of nobody else can be of any material service. If her mother was a woman of system, the young housekeeper already has much of what she wants bred in her bone, as one may say. But, if her mother was an invalid, or was shiftless and thriftless, was overwhelmed with troubles and babies, then the daughter has to strike out a path for herself. The sooner then that she remembers that there are seven days in the week, and that that period of time constitutes one revolution of the household, the sooner she will come into her kingdom and reign undisturbed by her people.

It is very evident from the above remarks, that it will be absolutely necessary to arrange a system of work that will be adapted to every member of your household. We, therefore, give you a plan for the week, which can be amended in any manner you may think necessary.

### A PLAN OF WORK FOR THE WEEK.

**MONDAY.**—This day has been considered the universal wash-day in America, thereby making Monday the most dreaded day of the week. Now, by changing washing from Monday to Tuesday, you have Monday to make all of your preparations in, and thus avoid both annoyance and anxiety. You can utilize Monday by doing odd jobs, such as washing windows, brightening the silver, cleaning stair-rods, etc., etc. A host of them will come crowding into the housekeeper's mind, and she will find that the day is not long enough to get them all done, and some must take their turn on the next Monday. There is that closet you have so long been anxious should be cleaned; that jar of preserves to be attended to, or they will spoil; and various incidental matters of this kind in addition to the "odd jobs." Monday will be a busy and a much valued day. It is a good time to select for all these extras, just after the rest of Sunday, and before the regular rush of the week's housework begins.

But you must save time from this work that your servant may, towards evening, help you to prepare the clothes for the next day's wash. Direct her to divide them into three parcels, the fine, the more common, but not much soiled, and the really

dirty. While this is being done you can put down on your list the number of articles of each kind. It is well to do this, even with honest servants, for, if anything is missing, the owner is sure to insist that it was lost in the wash, and the list will at once show whether the charge is correct. Have ready three tubs of cold, soft water, and put in the clothes, having first rubbed soap over the parts most soiled, and leave them to soak all night.

**TUESDAY.**—After breakfast, place your wash-boiler on the stove, place in your washing fluid and several pieces of hard soap cut up in shavings, together with the required amount of soft water. Put in the fine clothes, and boil them twenty minutes. Take out with as little water as possible, and without wringing, put into clear, cold water. If there are any soiled spots remaining on the clothes, they should be rubbed out before wringing from this water into the bluing water. The tub of bluing water is set near the other, so that the articles shall fall into it from the wringer. Put your second division of clothes into the boiler, in the same water from which the fine things were taken, and repeat the same process; but, if you have a third boiler full, it will be better to prepare fresh water. Take the clothes out of the blue water, and rinse in cold soft water, wring out, and hang out to dry. With this plan of washing, and fair weather, the clothes will all be hung out by noon, unless the wash is very large, and the servant will have the afternoon for cleaning up the kitchen and wash-room, putting away the tubs, boiler, etc., and making herself tidy. In the evening, the fine clothes and most of the starched things are to be sprinkled and folded, ready for ironing, and the bread is to be "set," for the next day's baking.

**WEDNESDAY.**—The baking this morning need not be as large as that done on Saturday, and it should be done as early as the morning work will allow, so that the servant may not be hurried in beginning the ironing, and do her work badly. She can easily do the ordinary fine ironing of a family and her other work in this part of a day. But, if there is much ruffling on ladies' dresses, and fine work on children's clothes, it will require a whole day's hard work to do it, and, in such a case, the mistress should hire some one to assist, or do all the ordinary housework herself. In the evening, the plainer and coarser clothes are to be sprinkled, and folded for ironing.

**THURSDAY.**—In the morning the ironing is to be finished. Where it is stipulated in the bargain that the servant should have half a day every week, this is the best afternoon to give her. It is the leisure interval between ironing and sweeping; and, as it is the day usually given by housekeepers, it enables the girl to meet her friends when she goes out.

**FRIDAY.**—Besides the every day sweeping, dusting, and putting to rights, it is necessary to devote one day in the week to this special duty, and Friday suits best for the purpose. The sitting-room, dining-room, halls, and stairways must be swept often, but once a week will be found generally sufficient for the



rest of the house. To do this thoroughly and well will require the whole of a day in addition to the ordinary work. In the evening the bread must be set to rise for the next day's baking.

**SATURDAY.**—This is the busiest day of the week. There is the regular morning work; then the baking; then the scrubbing and scouring. And the latter part of the day should be occupied in preparing everything for the next day, so that Sunday shall be a day of rest for all as far as practicable. The whole breakfast can be so arranged as to occupy but a very few minutes in cooking, and, in winter, nearly everything for dinner can be prepared; and, in summer, most things will keep well on ice, or in a cool cellar. The Sunday dessert can always be made on Saturday. But do not let the Saturday's work run into the evening.

**SUNDAY.**—Do not work at all on this day, except what is actually necessary for comfort. If you see a dusty corner, or a dim window pane, let it alone until the next day. Some putting of things to rights there must be, some making of beds and cooking. But there is no need of getting up especially elaborate dinners on this day, and, if Saturday afternoon has been employed as it should have been, your cooking will not occupy very much time. There are people who will stuff a turkey and roast it, and cook three or four vegetables, and stew cranberry sauce for dinner, and yet will not make up a pan of biscuit for supper, because "it is wicked to work in flour Sundays!" This is only one of a dozen senseless ideas of the same kind. The idea is not that any particular kind of work is in itself sinful on this day, but that it is the day set apart for Christian worship, and you and your family desire to attend church; and to have the servant attend also, and, if there were no higher principles involved, all creatures need a rest one day in seven.

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**HOW TO SEW CARPETS.**—Lay two breadths on the floor, and match the figures accurately; then with a carpet-needle and thread, tack the breadths together in several places, generally at points and intersections of figures, by taking a stitch or two, and then tying the ends of the thread into a knot. This must be done securely, so there is no danger that the figures will slip out of place when you turn the carpet over to sew it. If, in tacking this way, you find that one edge is fuller than the other, so that it will necessarily "pucker" when sewed, do not be alarmed, for it will all come right. Your first business is to match the figures at all hazards. Having done this you can cut the two breadths apart. Then lay down the third breadth, match the figures, and tack in the same manner; and so on, until all the breadths are tacked and cut. In laying down the breadths you must allow a little at each end for turning in. Now turn your carpet on the wrong side, and sew the breadths together, with an over-seam, or by putting the needle through one edge and bringing it back through the other. The stitches should not be taken through the whole thickness, only the

under half. In this way the stitches can lie closely, and the edges be securely fastened together, without danger of drawing open when laid down, and yet the seam will not be heavy, nor the thread show on the right side. When a carpet is tacked down, it should be stretched rather tightly, or it will rub up in folds and wrinkles, after being walked over for a few days. The figures will be your best guide in this, for they must, of course, run in straight lines, and not be drawn out of shape. After the carpet is tacked down, you will find, in most cases, that the puckers in the seams have disappeared, but if they have not, they generally will in a few days; if, however, they are very obstinate, wet them with clean cold water, and, when the carpet dries, you will find it is smooth.

**HOW TO DO UP CURTAINS.**—Before the curtains are put in the wash, tack all around them narrow strips of white cotton cloth, an inch or two wide. Dissolve a little soda in milk-warm water, and put in the curtains. Let them remain for half an hour, stirring and pressing them occasionally. Wring them very carefully—rather squeezing than wringing, whenever this process is to be performed. Place them in cold water for an hour. Then wash them with soap and warm water (but not *hot*). Wash again in clean water, rather hotter than the last. Rinse them in bluing water (only slightly blue, unless the curtains are very yellow). Wring carefully in clean towels. They are now ready for starching. Make the starch according to the usual process, but be sure to have it clear, and good, and *thin*, for muslin, and *very thin* for lace. Thick starch is utterly destructive to the fine, soft appearance of the lace. Stir a few times round in the starch, while boiling, a wax or sperm candle, or put into it a small piece of white wax. If the latter is used, it should be melted and poured in. When the starch is ready, pour half of it into one pan, and half into another. Dip the curtains in one; wring them out in towels; then dip into the second, and wring again. On the floor of an unoccupied room spread a couple of sheets, one under the other, for each curtain, or rather, half of a curtain. A large sheet folded may be wide enough. Shake the curtain, with assistance from some one, and lay it down smoothly, the edges of the cotton cloth to the edges of the sheet. Pin down the top and back. The other sides will then come perfectly straight without pinning. Leave them to dry; and then remove the strips of cloth, and hang the curtains to the windows at once. They should not be folded. If you should desire to put them away for a while, roll them lightly in a loose, soft roll, and wrap in *blue* paper, or cotton, the former preferable; but, in both instances, assure yourself that the blue dye does not rub off; and lay them where no weight will press against them.

**MATTING.**—Matting should never be washed with anything but salt and water—a pint of salt to half a pailful of soft water, moderately warm. Dry quickly with a soft cloth. Twice during the season will probably be sufficient washing for a bedroom, but a room much used will require it somewhat oftener.



**OIL-CLOTH** is ruined by the application of lye soap, as the lye eats the cloth, and, after being washed, it should be wiped perfectly dry, or the dampness will soon rot it. If laid down where the sun will shine on it much, it will be apt to stick fast to the floor, unless paper is laid under it.

**OILED FURNITURE.**—When oiled walnut begins to grow dingy, it can be made to look as fresh as new by re-oiling. Linseed, or even olive oil can be used, but pure, good kerosene oil is much the best. Rub it well in with a soft woolen rag, and polish with clean, dry flannel.

**SILVER.**—Silver should never be allowed to grow dingy, and need not, if properly washed after every meal. Wash in very hot soft water, with hard soap. Wipe hard and quickly, on a clean towel, and polish with dry flannel. If discolored with egg, mustard, etc., rub out the stain with a small, stiff brush, and silver soap, or whatever you use for cleaning silver; then wash off in hot water, wipe, and polish. Use soft towels. This is for the articles in common use. Once a week have all the silver cleaned. If you wish to place silver away for any length of time, wrap each article in blue paper, and it will keep a good color.

**GILT FRAMES.**—Boil three or four onions in a pint of water, then with a clean paint brush wash over your frames, and the flies will not alight on them. No injury will result to the frames. This renders unnecessary the unsightly drappings of gauze.

**BEDS** should be carefully examined very frequently, especially during the summer months, by the housekeeper, as servants neglect this duty altogether, or perform it carelessly. It is difficult to get rid of bed-bugs when they have once fairly established themselves in a house. Even new houses are sometimes infested by them, as there are certain kinds of wood in which they make their home, and thus their nests are built into the house. But they can be driven entirely off the field, if the war is only carried on briskly enough, and persisted in for a long time. When you think the last foe has yielded, and you have rested for awhile on your laurels, you will be surprised some day to find one skirmishing on the sheet, or perhaps on your best shawl, and on investigation you will discover that he is only the advanced guard of a whole regiment lying in ambush in some secure retreat. Even if you do not see one for the remainder of that summer, you have no security that they will not appear the next spring in apparently undiminished force. But do not give way to despair; keep fighting, and you will be victorious at last. When one fails to make its appearance in a house for the whole of a summer, you may congratulate yourself that the foe is completely routed. Here, again, there is no absolute security. You have certainly destroyed all the native inhabitants, but you do not know what day there may come a foreign importation. So you must keep a good lookout. Eternal vigilance is certainly the price of freedom from bed-bugs. Hot steam is the best thing for driving these creatures from

the walls of houses. A small steaming apparatus can be bought for an inconsiderable sum, or with a little ingenuity one can be fitted up at the cost of a dollar or so. Use it freely, and scald out every corner and crevice, from garret to cellar, quite frequently, until you feel sure that they are entirely dislodged; and after that, once or twice a year will be sufficient. The persistent use of scalding water on bedsteads, pouring it on the slats, and springs, and joinings (the bedstead must be often taken apart for this purpose), will prove effectual in time, if no other means are used. But there are various substances employed to hasten the desired result. Corrosive sublimate—an ounce of it to a half pint of alcohol—is an old remedy, and effectual. So is quicksilver, beaten up with the whites of eggs. But both of these are deadly poisons, and housekeepers are afraid to use them. Persons very sensitive to poisons have been made sick by sleeping on bedsteads where corrosive sublimate had been recently applied. Some use hartshorn, but this injures paint and varnish. Some use nothing but salt and water, and others assert that kerosene oil is a sovereign remedy. There are various powders sold that are effectual as bug destroyers, but housekeepers usually find them very unreliable; one package will be all that it claims to be, and another of the same kind of powder, bought at the same place, will be good for nothing. Sometimes this is because the powder has been adulterated, but generally because it has become stale. And these are, also, often very poisonous. One of the most popular of these, however, the Persian Insect Powder, is perfectly harmless to human beings, and is a deadly poison to all insects that infest houses. It is imported into this country from the East, and is prepared from a flower of the same genus as our Feverfew. But a great deal of this that is sold is good for nothing, also. If you can buy it in the original packages in which it was imported, you may feel pretty sure that it is good. Mattress covers should be washed every month or two, but so arrange it that all will not be in the wash at the same time. Sheets must be thoroughly aired before putting away, must be kept in a perfectly dry place, and should not be put upon the bed any length of time before they are to be used. When a guest has left, and a bedroom is to be unoccupied for a time, fold up the bed-spread and blankets, and lay them carefully away; and, having sent the sheets, bolster and pillow-cases to the wash, put on the pillow-slips made of calico, and spread over mattress and bolster a covering made of the same. Thus everything will be kept clean until wanted again. Mattresses should be exposed to the air every day, and have a good airing once a week; and sometimes should be put out for a whole day in the sun and wind. In the case of invalids, where this cannot well be done, hair mattresses can be used without it longer than any other. But here, if there are two beds, one can be spared sometimes for a good airing.

**HOW TO CLEAN FEATHER BEDS.**—There are several ways of doing this, but the following is recommended, as it cleans both, tick and feathers: Contrive, if possible, some sort of a platform, that you can set up in the yard, on which to lay your beds

for cleaning or airing. Failing this, use a back porch. Wash the platform clean, and lay on it the feather bed, and let it remain there during the night in the dew. In the morning, before the dew is off, take a pail of clean, cold, soft water, and, with a new whisk broom, wet and rub the upper side of the bed for some time. Let it lie in the sun until it is dry, which will not be for several hours. Turn it over and treat the other side in the same way, and continue the process until the white stripes in the ticking look as clean as new. This treatment of the feathers makes them "lively." If there is any indication of rain, the bed must be taken into the house. And if you are afraid to leave the bed out at night, because of thieves, the dew must be dispensed with in the treatment.

**HOW TO WASH FEATHER PILLOWS.**—The best way to wash these is to put them out in a good hard rain for several hours; and then wring them out, and dry quickly, that they may not get musty.

**VASES.**—It may not be generally known that bright-colored vases, and those ornamented with flowers, do not show off real flowers to the best advantage. White or brown are best for this purpose.

**FIRES.**—Fires should be kindled at least once a week in every room through fall and winter, to prevent dampness.

**DISINFECTANTS.**—These should never be left more than a week unchanged, as they throw out the poisons they gather.

**THE STOVE URN.**—Keep the stove urn nearly filled with water as long as the fire is kept up in the stove. Put a little charcoal also in the urn, and this ought to be changed every week.

**WALL PAPERS.**—Old paper should be removed from the walls before the new is put on. It can easily be done by wetting it with warm water. After it is all off, have the plaster wiped over with carbolie acid, to purify it. The disagreeable odor of the acid will disappear almost immediately, and you can then feel sure there is nothing infectious lurking in your walls. Use corn-starch paste for putting on the new paper, as it does not turn sour, or stain the paper.

**COVERING FOR A STOVE.**—Even the prettiest stove is not in itself a very beautiful object. In the cold weather, when there is a fire burning in it all the time, and it gives a pleasant sensation of warmth to the occupants of the room, they forgive its ugliness, and regard it with very friendly feelings; but in summer it stands out in cold, cheerless deformity. And yet if there are no open fire-places, the stove should be left standing in at least one room all summer, to be in readiness for the cold "north-easters" when the whole house seems pervaded with dampness, which a little fire will soon dissipate. In the fall, too, the stove ought to be put up in the sitting-room very early, and the fuel laid in it all ready for lighting whenever there is a chilly evening. To conceal the stove, when not in use, you can make a covering for it somewhat in the following style: Have a light pine frame made, consisting of a square or oval

top, on which are fitted three or four legs a little higher than the stove. Drape this frame with any pretty material that is sufficiently thick to conceal the stove. The under drapery must be tacked on quite full, and should fall to the floor; the upper must be still fuller to drape gracefully. Arrange the festoons in any style you fancy, only take care that some of them shall fall nearly to the bottom of the under drapery, or else your stand will look "lanky." Trim with woolen or cotton cord, according to material used, and hang tassels wherever they will be effective. Before the drapery is put on, the top of the stand should be rubbed perfectly smooth, and then stained with black walnut stain. This frame can be removed easily whenever a fire is needed. A vase of flowers or grasses can stand on the top.

TO PRESERVE VARIOUS KINDS OF FRUIT THROUGH THE WINTER. —Apples can be kept till June by taking only those that are hard and sound, wiping them dry, then packing them in tight barrels, with a layer of bran to each layer of apples. Envelop the barrel in a linen cloth, to protect it from frost, and keep it in a cool place, but not so cold as to freeze the apples. It is said that mortar, laid over the top of a barrel of apples, is a good thing to preserve them, as it draws the air from them, which is the principal cause of their decaying. Care should be taken not to have it come in contact with the apples. To preserve oranges and lemons several months, take those that are perfectly fresh and wrap each one in soft paper, put them in glass jars or a very light box, with white sand that has been previously dried in an oven a few hours after it has been baked in. The sand should be strewed thick over each one of the oranges as they are laid in the jar, and the whole covered with a thick layer of it. Close the jar up tight, and keep it in a cool, dry place, but not so cool as to freeze the fruit. To preserve grapes, gather them on a dry day, when they are not quite dead ripe, and pick those that are not far off from the stems. Lay the bunches of grapes in a glass jar and sprinkle around each of them a thick layer of bran, so that they will not touch each other. Have a thick layer of bran on the top, and cork and seal the jar very tight, so that the air may be entirely excluded. Whenever they are to be eaten, restore them to their freshness by cutting off a small piece from the end of the stalks and immerse the stalks of each bunch in sweet wine for a few minutes. The stalks will imbibe the wine and make the grapes fresh and juicy. Various kinds of fruit, taken when green, such as grapes, gooseberries, currants and plums, can be kept through the winter by being treated in the following manner: Fill junk bottles with them and set them in an oven six or seven hours, after having baked in it. Let them remain till they begin to shrink, then take the fruit from one bottle to fill the others quite full. Cork and seal up the bottles. Whenever you wish to make pies of them, put the quantity you wish to use into a tin pan, turn on boiling water sufficient to cover them, and stew them in it till soft, then sweeten and make them into pies. Ripe blackberries and whortleberries, to be kept long, should be dried perfectly in the sun, then tied up in bags that are thick enough to exclude the air. When used for pies, treat them in the same manner as the



green fruit. Ripe currants, dried on the stalks, then picked off and put in bags, will keep nice for pies during the winter. They also make a fine tea for persons that have a fever, particularly the hectic fever; it is also an excellent thing to counteract the effects of opium.

**A FIRE-PROOF AND WATER-PROOF CEMENT.**—To half a pint of milk put an equal quantity of vinegar, in order to curdle it; then separate the curd from the whey, and mix the whey with the whites of four or five eggs, beating the whole well together. When it is well mixed, add a little quick-lime, through a sieve, until it has acquired the consistence of a thick paste. With this cement broken vessels and cracks of all kinds may be mended. It dries quickly, and resists the action of fire and water.

**TO TAKE WAX OUT OF CLOTH.**—Hold a red-hot iron (a poker will do) steadily within an inch or so of the cloth, and in a few minutes the wax will wholly evaporate; then rub the cloth with some whitish-brown paper to remove any mark that may remain.

**TO RENDER SHOES WATER-PROOF.**—Mix a pint of drying oil, two ounces of yellow wax, two ounces of turpentine, and half an ounce of Burgundy pitch, over a slow fire. Lay the mixture, whilst hot, on the boots or shoes with a sponge or soft brush; and, when they are dry, lay it on again and again, until the leather becomes quite saturated, that is to say, will hold no more. Let them then be put away, and not be worn until they are perfectly dry and elastic; they will afterward be found not only impenetrable to wet, but soft and pliable, and of much longer duration.

**CANDLES.**—Very hard and durable candles are made in the following manner: Melt together ten ounces of mutton tallow, a quarter of an ounce of camphor, four ounces of beeswax, and two ounces of alum. Candles made of these materials burn with a very clear light.

**HOW TO CARVE ON WOOD.**—All boys manifest a decided taste for whittling, often greatly to the annoyance of their elders. As they grow into manhood they generally leave off whittling, with other childish things. The trait is only mentioned here to show that it is born in them as much as nursing dolls is in girls; and to account for the fact that so many men have a natural gift for cutting and carving wood. It is the whittling grown into an art with the natural growth of the mind. Furnish such men with a pen-knife, and a few old cigar-boxes, and they will return you prettily carved brackets, picture-frames, etc. Very few women turn thus instinctively to such work, but if their attention is directed into this channel after some practice and with proper tools, the majority make very respectable wood-carvers, and some become quite accomplished and skillful artists. And as women, as a rule, have more leisure than men, or perhaps we should say that the most of their leisure is passed within the home, it usually happens that the ornamental work falls largely into their hands. The actual work of wood-carving is purely

mechanical, and only requires care and nicety in cutting, and a very moderate supply of patience. It is in designing the patterns and in putting the pieces of carved wood together that your genius and taste are called into use. If you do not possess the former—for this particular thing—perhaps you have some friend who can draw designs for you; and, if not, you can buy them in infinite variety. Even in the matter of putting together you can obtain directions so explicit that you will have to take great pains to go wrong; but it is best to trust to your taste, and cultivate it by using it. For this is one useful purpose of all work that is known as “fancy.” First, in regard to the wood. This can be generally obtained from any cabinet-maker or carpenter. The former will probably have the greatest variety and the finest qualities. In country places you may not be able to obtain the foreign woods, but you can get Walnut, Oak, Chestnut, Butternut, Appletree, Cedar, Holly, and others. It will be well at first for you to consult with the man from whom you purchase in regard to the properties of the different woods, some being hard, and others soft, some soiling very easily with use, and others being difficult to polish, or varnish; but you will soon learn these things yourself. Wood varies in price, but none of the American woods are expensive. The most beautiful—and most costly—of the foreign woods are satinwood, rosewood, and ebony. But the latter being very effective, a little of it may be made to go a great way by using it for tiny center-pieces, narrow moldings, etc. With some pieces of wood, pretty patterns, and inexpensive tools you can cut very respectable Easels, Brackets, Picture-Frames, Letter-Holders, Book-Racks, and numerous other small articles, and also ornaments for larger pieces of furniture. Sand-paper for rubbing the wood smooth, and cement for mending breakages, will also be necessary. The small saws are about twenty cents a dozen. They cannot be used without a frame in which to place them to steady them; and you will have to practice some time before you will be satisfied with your work. But it can be done well with a little patience. Those who wish to go extensively into this business, or a club of persons who desire to work together, would do well to purchase a jig-saw at twenty-five dollars. This not only saws wood, but soft metals; is mounted on a table like a sewing-machine, and is worked somewhat in the same way. With this, wood-carving is very easy and fascinating work, and you may aspire to making really beautiful things.

**WALNUT STAIN.**—We give this first because it is useful for staining almost any article of furniture, and many ornaments, besides floors, woodwork, etc. It will impart to common wood, such as pine, the color and appearance of black walnut. One quarter of a pound of asphaltum, one half pound of common beeswax to one gallon of turpentine. If found too thin add beeswax; if too light in color add asphaltum, though that must be done with caution, as a very little will make a great difference in the shade, as the wood should not be black, but a rich dark-brown. Black is the color of the nut, and not the wood. Varnishing is not essential, as the wax gives a good gloss.



**WOOD POLISH.**—This is rather a tedious process, and the best plan is to give it to a regular polisher. But if you wish to undertake it yourself, you will need some shellac (dark or light, according to your wood) dissolved in alcohol, some sweet oil, old linen, a little cotton wool, alcohol, and sand-paper. First rub with sand-paper until the wood is perfectly smooth and soft. Make a dabber of the cotton wool, cover it with the linen and tie it firmly; wet it with the shellac and one drop of sweet oil, and rub the wood with a quick, even pressure, in circles all over the surface. The only point is that the polish must be distributed evenly and quickly, and the same amount of rubbing given to every part. Continue the wetting and rubbing until the wood begins to reflect. The next day repeat the process, leaving intervals for absorption, till the reflection is as perfect as glass. When you are satisfied, take a fresh dabber, dampen it slightly with alcohol, and rub it softly and evenly over the wood; it will bring out the polish, and fix it. You must put on polish enough before using the alcohol, as you cannot put on any afterwards.

**ASPHALTUM VARNISH.**—One half a pound of asphaltum and one pint of turpentine are used for making this varnish. They can be obtained at a paint-shop or a carriage-maker's. Put the asphaltum into a tin basin, and pour on some of the turpentine; let it remain over night, and if well dissolved, try it with a brush on a piece of the same kind of wood or leather for which you are preparing it. When put on, it should be the color of black walnut. If it is too dark, add turpentine; if too light, asphaltum. The proper proportions can only be known by thus experimenting. Apply one or two coats, as may be necessary.

**LEAVES OF LEATHER.**—Soak a piece of sheepskin in water until it is pliable. Cut a paper pattern of a leaf; lay it on the leather, and cut. A carpenter's gouge is a good thing for the purpose. When dry and stiff, varnish with asphaltum. These are used for picture-frames, and for ornamenting the edges of book-shelves, the tops of book-cases, brackets, and a variety of things.

**LEATHER ORNAMENTS.**—Get a piece of calfskin, and moisten it in warm water until soft and pliable. You can then cut it into scallops, diamonds, or any fashion you may admire. You can varnish with asphaltum, or leave it the natural color, which will deepen with age.

**ACORN ORNAMENTS.**—These are often used for picture-frames, baskets, etc., and also for mixing with leather leaves. The nuts and cups are glued together, and then glued to the wood. They are very pretty, but do not pay for the trouble of making, as they soon fall apart.

**PINE CONES.**—These are also much used for decorating, and are very handsome when varnished, but if glued on, are liable to fall off after some time. They can sometimes be tacked on. They should be mixed with other things, and, for most purposes, the small ones are the prettiest. The scales of the large cones are very pretty, each scale nailed on with small up-

holsterer's tacks, first boring the holes, so as not to split the wood. Besides the above, there are many small things used for decorating, such as unroasted coffee beans, small black beans, kernels of rice; and these, if well glued on, are not as apt to fall off as the heavier cones and acorns. These can be arranged in geometrical figures, rosettes, balls, and almost any way that fancy may suggest. Varnish with asphaltum, or black varnish, if you prefer it, which can be procured at any paint-shop. Cloves, allspice, and berries are strung on wires and twisted into scallops, double scallops, diamonds, etc., for edging and borderings.

**RUSTIC WORK.**—This is chiefly used for ornamenting large hanging baskets, aquariums, flower stands, and lawn tables, settees, and chairs; and sometimes for smaller articles, such as boxes and picture-frames. The materials are sticks of various woods, either flat or round, generally oiled and varnished, but sometimes with the bark left on. Twigs of various woods are freely employed; these have the bark on, and may be straight or bent, according to effect desired; birch, hazel, and silver poplar are among the prettiest. Willow wands are easy to work with, and grape vines are not difficult to manage. These can be used with or without the bark. It is better to oil all wood from which the bark is stripped, but this is not absolutely necessary. Bits of rattan, strips of lath, pine cones, acorns, walnut shells sawed in pieces, walnut hulls (split in two), are all employed in rustic work; and other materials will doubtless suggest themselves to those who have any knowledge of wood-craft. Asphaltum varnish will be found best on most rustic work, but for variety, black varnish, or even paint may be used when it is in wood colors, and not applied too thickly.

**PLAIN BRACKETS.**—These may be constructed in simple forms of the plain wood, without any elaborate carving. They will not, of course, be as handsome, but are quite as useful. A little shelf, with semicircular front, and sides cut to fit into a corner, may simply be fastened on the chair-rail. This is a corner shelf rather than a bracket, but is a convenient place for a vase of flowers or little bust. A small shelf, with straight back, and semicircular front fitted to a standard, is the plainest style of the bracket proper. You will have to get a carpenter to cut the shelves and standards. You can then convert the plain affair into something fanciful by decorating shelf and standard with any of the leather or wood ornaments previously described.

**LETTER RACKS.**—These may be cut out of leather or wood. If of the former, you can do it yourself, having first cut a paper pattern. Ornament the leather with small leaves, arranged in various forms, and the wood with rosettes of small articles, and pine cone scales, etc. They are sometimes made of embroidered cloth or satin, but these only suit bedrooms and libraries.

**PICTURE-FRAMES.**—The prettiest home-made frames, after those made from the carved wood, are of leather leaves. Rustic work, if simple in construction, also looks well. Quite a graceful-looking oval frame may be formed by twisting grape-vines

fantastically together, allowing the ends to project at the top and bottom.

**THE STORE-ROOM.**—Every housekeeper should have a small closet for her stores, if she has not a regular store-room. The store-room should be very dry, and furnished with drawers, shelves, and nails with a few little nets suspended from them, for hanging lemons in. It should contain, also, earthenware jars for sugar, and tins for keeping tea, coffee, and biscuits. The large or small tins in which biscuits are sold should be retained for these uses. Jams, pickles, and preserves should be kept in the coolest part of the room or closet. Loaf sugar should be very white, close, heavy, and glittering; it is economy to buy the best, as the more refined the sugar is, the less the quantity required for sweetening. Moist or brown sugar should have a crystalline, sparkling look, and should not be too powdery or sand-like. Starch should be kept in a warm, dry place. Sugar, sweetmeats, and salt must all be kept *very dry*. Rice, tapioca, sago, etc., should be kept close covered, or they will get insects in them; it is better *not* to have large supplies of these articles. Buy lemons when they are freshly imported, and hang them in separate nets, for if they touch they will spoil. Onions, shallots and garlic should be hung in ropes from a ceiling in an out-house (*not* in the store-room); and parsley, basil, savory, knotted marjoram and thyme should be dried and hung up in paper bags, each bag containing only one description of herb. † They should be dried in the wind, and not in the sun; and when ordered in a receipt should be cautiously used, as a preponderance of one flavor in any seasoning spoils it. When oranges or lemons are squeezed for juice, chop down the peel, put it in small pots, and tie it down for use. Vegetables will keep best on a stone floor, out of the air. Eggs may be preserved by brushing them all over the shell with a thin solution of gum and laying them in bran. Some persons brush them over with oil; in fact, anything which will render the shell impervious to the air suffices for the purpose of preserving them. Suet may be kept for a twelvemonth thus: Choose the firmest and most free from skin or veins, remove all traces of these, put the suet in a saucepan at some distance from the fire, and let it melt gradually; when melted, pour it into a pan of cold spring water; when hard, wipe it dry, fold it in white paper, put it in a linen bag, and keep it in a dry, cool place; when used it must be scraped; it will make an excellent pie-crust, either with or without butter. Dripping is most useful in a moderate family. It is an excellent medium for frying; it will make good family pie-crust, and supply the place of suet in a dumpling. Bones are absolutely necessary for making gravies and stock for soup. Take care that butter is kept in a cool place and covered from the air. In summer get some saltpeter, dissolve it in cold water and *stand* the butter-crock in it, so that the saltpeter water may reach well up the sides. Cover it over with a wet cloth, the ends of which, resting in the saltpeter water, will keep it constantly moist. This is nearly as good as icing the butter. Milk should be kept in scrupulously clean

vessels, and stale and fresh milk should never be mixed, or the good will be spoiled.

**HOW TO MAKE FLOWER STANDS.** Fill the box about one-third full of sand, and in this imbed the flower-pots containing your plants, arranging them with reference to size, and also to color, if in blossom. Spread moss over the top of the stand in such a way as to conceal the pots. This will have to be renewed a few times during the winter. The sand should be kept damp, but not wet, and the moss also a little damp; and the plants should be watered very little except in the case of those that require an unusual supply of moisture, and these had better not be kept in the same stand with those that require only the ordinary supply. For fanciful forms of flower-stands, you should have the standards made by a neighboring cabinet-maker in plain wood and of any device. You can then ornament them with rustic work at your leisure. For the top you can have a round, square, or octagon box, also embellished with rustic work. Fill with soil. Or you can have a flat circular piece of wood nailed to the standard, forming a round table. Make rustic work around the edge so that it shall be several inches high, and set on the table a basket made like a hanging basket, only larger, or some fancifully-made box, filled with soil for the reception of plants. All stands should be mounted on casters for convenience of moving. Your own taste will suggest a variety of elegant devices for flower-stands, either for plants or cut flowers. If you can have the frames properly made according to your design, you can yourself ornament them in many beautiful styles. And there is nothing that so adorns a room as a flower stand, with its variety of greens and brilliant colors.

**HOW TO MAKE HANGING BASKETS.**—Take a cocoanut shell, and saw off a small section from the upper part, put in it a little piece of sponge, fill the shell with nothing but scouring sand, and a little charcoal, put in it the common plant, known generally as moneywort, and hang it where it can get the light and a little sunshine, and you will soon have long swaying festoons and pendants of soft green, entwined with golden blossoms, through which will gleam the dark rich brown of your cocoanut shell, thus easily transformed into "a thing of beauty." This is the simplest form of the hanging basket. For larger ones you can use wooden bowls, ornamented with rosettes and figures made of coffee, rice, and berries, as mentioned previously. With these can be mingled scales of pine cones, leather, leaves, etc. Or they can have edgings of rustic work, the rest of the bowl being ornamented with rosettes and balls made of the small materials. Three holes must be bored at regular distances near the edge for the cords that are to support the basket. Very pretty baskets are made of sticks of oak, maple, or any of the handsomely-colored woods; they should be of equal lengths, eight or twelve inches long. Build up like a loghouse. At each corner a heated wire is thrust through the ends of the sticks to hold them together, and is bent into a loop at the top which supports the cord. A wooden bottom



must be nailed on. Fill the interstices with moss. And so we might go on through all the gradations, which are almost infinite, up to the elaborate and intricate designs in carved wood, shell-work, cork, etc. There is nothing easier to make than a hanging basket, or more difficult if you choose to take trouble. But the idea that many persons have that they must be bought is erroneous, for all the plainer styles that are sold by florists can be imitated with perfect success without very much trouble. A basket covered with rustic work carefully made, and pretty in design, with a handle of twisted grape vines, at an expenditure of fifty cents for materials, and a dollar for plants and vines, will be quite as handsome as one the florist would sell you for five dollars, and will have the advantage that the plants are much more likely to blossom. For it is a common complaint that when the baskets lose the flowers that are on them when bought they bloom no more—not that season, at least. The reason is that the dry air of the room in which they are hung is too great a change from the moist air of their native home—the green-house. Very few things will grow like moneywort in common sand, but the soil in a hanging basket should not be very rich, or you will have a profusion of leaves, and but few blossoms. A light sandy loam is best. In the bottom place a piece of coarse sponge. This will hold the moisture, and the roots will absorb it as they require it. Also put bits of charcoal in the bottom, as this acts as a purifier to keep the earth sweet. Then fill with soil, one part rich earth and two parts sand.

**HOW TO MAKE WAX FLOWERS.**—Wax flowers are the best imitations of the real ones, but where the latter can be obtained the former should be dispensed with. With the introduction of hanging baskets and flower-stands, we have natural flowers in profusion in winter, when it is not always easy to obtain the cut flowers. So there would seem to be no necessity for the wax imitations. If you make these, use them sparingly, a spray of white lilies perhaps in one room, and a tea-rose in another. Do not mass them together in great bunches. Wax fruits, heaped up under glass covers, are not desirable ornaments. We marvel for a few moments at their wonderful resemblance to the original, but we soon tire of them. In a large room, however, they or the flowers massed together, do sometimes produce a fine effect from a distance, as a focus of brilliant colors. A wax cross, with a trailing vine of passion flowers and green leaves, or rising in naked simplicity from a bed of violets or pansies, is a beautiful ornament for a mantel-piece or bracket.

**ORNAMENTAL WINDOW PICTURES.**—Upon a square of white, or delicately tinted bristol-board, trace lightly some pretty design, such as a bouquet, a cluster of leaves and fruit, or a cross, or an anchor, wreathed with leaves and flowers. The latter should be simple in form; passion flowers, lilies of the valley, apple blossoms, and sweet peas are the most effective. Fern leaves and fruit are also among the simpler designs. For more effective pictures, select parts of a landscape, or figure pictures that

are not too elaborate. Having traced the design, lay the bristol-board flat on a block of hard wood, and with a thin-bladed and very sharp knife proceed to cut smoothly through as much of each outline as possible, without entirely detaching any leaf or other distinct portion from the whole. One fifth of a leaf left without cutting through will be sufficient. Sometimes judicious prickings with a coarse needle add to the good effect. The points of the leaves and the petals of the flowers should next be pressed through toward the window to admit the light, and give the softly shaded effect we desire. The transparency can then be hung close to a window pane by means of narrow white ribbon loops at the corners, secured to the wood-work. For lamp screens, several of these pieces of bristol-board, each with a separate picture, can be put together. The glass transparencies are more easily made, and require no skill in drawing. Arrange pressed ferns, grasses, or autumn leaves, according to some pretty design, on a pane of window glass. Lay a pane of the same size over it, and bind the edges together with ribbon. The best way to put on the binding, is to gum it all around the edge of the first pane you use, and let it dry before you arrange your design on it. Then you can fold it neatly over the second pane, and gum it on that. Use gum-tragacanth. It is well to put a narrow piece of paper under the ribbon. To form the loop for hanging, paste a binding of galloon along the upper edge before the ribbon binding is put on, leaving a two-inch loop in the center, to be pulled through a little slit in the final binding. For a lamp screen, take four, six, or eight of these transparencies, and tack them together with strong sewing silk. To soften the light, the screen should be lined with oiled tissue paper, white or rose color. Or you can give the glass the effect known as "ground glass," by rubbing the inner surface of each pane on a flat smooth stone, plentifully covered with white sand, before you insert the leaves.

**MARROW POMATUM.**—Lard, one pound; suet, half a pound; otto of lemon and cloves, three drachms of each.

**CRYSTALLIZED HAIR-OIL.**—Almond oil, one fluid pound; spermaceti, quarter of a pound; otto of lemon, one ounce.

**BRANDY BALLS.**—The same as bull's-eyes or barley-sugar, small pieces being taken, when hot, and rolled up into round balls, about the size of bullets.

**ROSE WATER.**—Take six pounds of the leaves of fresh damask roses, and as much water as will prevent burning. Distill off half a gallon.

**VANILLA.**—To make a fluid extract of vanilla, take eight Troy ounces vanilla and an equal weight of crushed loaf sugar. Slit the pods from end to end with a knife, then take them in small bundles, held tightly between the fingers, and cut them transversely into very small pieces. Of these, beat small portions at a time in an iron mortar with a little of the sugar, until reduced to a damp powder, which must be rubbed with the hand through a No. 20 sieve. Any coarse particles which do not pass through the sieve must be returned to the mortar, and with fresh por-



tions of vanilla and sugar again treated as before. This is to be continued until the whole is reduced to a No. 20 powder. This is then to be mixed with five pints of a mixture of three parts alcohol and one part of water, and the whole is to be introduced into a one-gallon stone jug, which must be tightly corked. The jug is then placed in a water-bath resting upon folds of paper, and the mixture digested for two hours at a temperature of from 160 to 170 deg. Fahrenheit. The upper part of the jug must be kept cool (to prevent the undue expansion of vapor), by wrapping around it a towel or other cloth saturated by having cold water squeezed on it from a sponge every fifteen or twenty minutes. The jug should be removed from the bath after each application of the water, and its contents well shaken, keeping the hand upon the cork. When the digestion has been completed, it is to be expressed through muslin. Pack the residue, previously rubbed with the hands to a uniform condition, firmly in a glass funnel prepared for percolation, and gradually pour upon it first the expressed liquid, and when this has all disappeared from the surface continue the percolation with a mixture of three parts alcohol and one part water, until eight pints are obtained.

**INKS.**—Colored printers' inks are made after the following recipes: For red, take soft varnish and vermilion with white of eggs, not very thick; or common varnish, red lead and orange. Colcothar is indelible. Blue: Prussian blue and a little ivory-black with varnish and eggs very thick. Common indigo and varnish; then wash off with boiling lees. Green: Sesquioxide of chromium (chrome green). This is the ink used in printing greenbacks. It is indestructible, and cannot be photographed.

**CEMENT.**—An excellent cement, that is not attacked by water, and adheres firmly to leather, rubber, wood, stone, glass, porcelain, ivory, parchment, paper, feathers, wool and other textile fabrics, and even to varnish, is easily compounded by melting in an iron vessel equal parts of common pitch and gutta-percha. It is kept either liquid under water, or solid to be melted when wanted.

**IMITATION GOLD.**—Spanish copper, six and a half penny-weights; fine silver, three and a half ditto; gold coin, twenty-nine ditto. Fuse together. The alloy will be worth fifteen dollars the ounce.

**FLIES** (to prevent them settling on pictures, picture-frames, and other furniture).—Soak a large bundle of leeks for five or six days in a pail of water, and then wash the pictures, etc., with it.

**MOTHS.**—The following is an excellent recipe for keeping moths out of clothing: Mix half a pint of alcohol, the same quantity of turpentine, and two ounces of camphor. Keep in a stone bottle, and shake well before using. The clothes or furs are to be wrapped in linen, and crumpled-up pieces of blotting-paper dipped in the liquid to be placed in the box with them, so that it smells strong. This requires renewing but once a year.

**SALT RHEUM.**—To cure salt rheum wash the part affected with castile soap and water, and dry with soft cloth. Then wet with tincture of iodine, and let it dry, after which apply a little citrine ointment, made by dissolving 1 1-2 oz. mercury in 1 1-2 oz. nitric acid. Stir till effervescence ceases. Heat 16 1-2 oz. lard to 200 deg. Fahrenheit, in an earthen vessel, and add the solution, stirring until amalgamated. When the eruption is on an exposed part a wash composed of 1 drachm corrosive sublimate, 2 scruples white vitriol (sulphate of zinc), 3 drachms sal ammoniac, 2 drachms salt, and three ounces sugar of lead, mixed with one pint soft water, may be used alternately with the tincture of iodine.

**MENDING GLASS.**—For mending valuable glass objects which would be disfigured by common cement, chrome cement may be used. This is a mixture of five parts gelatine to one of a solution of acid chromate of lime. The broken edges are covered with this, pressed together, and exposed to sunlight, the effect of the latter being to render the compound insoluble even in boiling water.

**WEAK EYES.**—To cure weak eyes take rose-leaves, the more the better, and put them into a little water, then boil; after this strain into a bottle and cork it tight. You will find this liquid, used as a bath, beneficial in removing redness and weakness.

**WAX.**—To prepare wax for polishing floors, take twelve and one-half pounds of yellow wax, rasped, and stir into a hot solution of six pounds good pearl-ash, in rain-water, keeping the mixture well stirred while boiling. It is first quiet, but soon commences to froth, and when the effervescence ceases heat is stopped, and there are added to the mixture, while still stirring, six pounds dry yellow ochre. It may be then poured into tin cans or boxes, and hardens on cooling. When wanted for use, a pound of it is diffused in five pints boiling hot water and the mixture well stirred, and applied while hot to the floor by means of a paint-brush. It dries in a few hours after which the floor is to be polished with a large floor-brush, and afterward wiped with a coarse woolen cloth. A coat of this paint will last six months.

**INK-BLOTS.**—When ink-blots have been formed over writing which it is desired to decipher, brush the spot carefully with a weak solution of oxalic acid by means of a camel's hair pencil. In this way layer after layer of the superincumbent ink will be removed, and finally the writing in most cases will come to view. This is especially possible when considerable time has elapsed between the two applications of ink. As soon as the letters are visible, the brushing should be continued for a little time with clear water, so as to arrest the tendency of the acid to make further change in the ink.

**WASPS.**—To destroy wasps, make a strong solution of cyanide of potassium; soak a piece of lint, four or five inches square, with the solution, and lay it close to the entrance of a wasps' nest during the bright, hot part of the day. According as the wasps return home, they will alight on the lint and very soon

die. If the nest be in a tree, hold the soaked lint with a tongs or split stick close under it, late in the evening, when the wasps are at home for the night. Soon the wasps will fall out in a shower, dead. Avoid inhaling the vapor, and be careful in touching this deadly poison.

**HAIR-WASH.**—Tea-leaves (used) and borax, boiled together and used as hair-wash, will strengthen the roots of the hair to a most surprising degree. The proportions should be as follows: To the tea-leaves left after using five teaspoonfuls of tea to make eight cups of tea, add half an ounce of borax; boil for ten minutes in a quart of water, strain, and apply the wash every morning. We think you will not have to complain of your hair falling off after you have tried this recipe for a fortnight.

**TO PREPARE SKELETON LEAVES.**—The easiest and most effectual mode of making skeleton leaves is found to be to prepare three ounces of washing-soda in one quart of boiling water and half an ounce of slack lime, boiled ten minutes. Then pour off the clear solution, bring it to a boil again, and put in the leaves; boil briskly for one hour; add hot water as it boils down. Rub a leaf between the fingers, under water, and if the skin and pulp come off easily, the leaves are done.

**BAD BREATH.**—For bad breath try the following: Three hours after breakfast take a teaspoonful of the following mixture: Chlorate of potassa, two drachms; sweetened water, four ounces. Wash the mouth occasionally with the same mixture, and the breath will be as sweet as an infant's of two months.

**ETCHING.**—To etch figures on German silver you should cover the article you desire to experiment on with a thin coating of wax. Etch the desired figures in the wax through to the surface of the silver; then pour nitric acid over the surface of the wax thus operated upon, and wash both wax and acid off.

**PUTTY.**—Glaziers' putty is made of whiting and oil; the whiting should be in the form of a very fine dry powder; it should be specially dried for the purpose, and passed through a sieve of forty-five holes to the inch, and then mixed with as much raw linseed oil as will form it into a stiff paste; this, after being well kneaded, should be left for twelve hours, and worked up in small pieces till quite smooth. It should be kept in a glazed pan, and covered with a wet cloth. If putty becomes hard and dry, it can be restored by heating it and working it up again while hot. For special purposes white-lead is sometimes mixed with the whiting, or the putty is made of white-lead and litharge entirely.

**BLACKING.**—To make fine liquid blacking, take ivory black and molasses, of each one pound; sweet oil and oil of vitriol, of each quarter pound. Mix the first three, then gradually add the vitriol diluted with thrice its weight of water; mix it well and let stand for three hours, when it may be reduced to a proper consistence with water or sour beer.

**PINK EYE.**—A good remedy for pink eye is a tonic composed of pure sulphate of iron four ounces, nitrate of potash two ounces,

linseed meal two ounces, fœnugreek seed half an ounce; powder and mix. Give a tablespoonful twice a day in soft feed, and give gentle exercise. Rub the throat (if swollen) with a liniment composed of the following articles: aqua ammonia, linseed oil, and turpentine, one ounce each; mix; rub a little in once a day until mildly blistered.

**MIRRORS.**—The process of making a mirror by covering glass with an amalgam of mercury and tin, known as quicksilver, has been in use for three centuries. It consists in spreading out upon a solid horizontal table a sheet of tin-foil, which is first rubbed and afterward covered to a sensible depth with mercury, so that the superior surface may remain liquid. The mercury is prevented from flowing by means of slight ledges placed around the sheet. The glass, after having been very carefully cleansed on the lower or coating surface, is advanced horizontally along the layer of mercury, its lower edge being depressed below the surface, so as to exclude air and to remove impurities. When in proper position it is left resting on the mercury, and by tilting the table the superfluous liquid is allowed to flow off, being caught in a trough provided for the purpose at the margin of the table. A uniform pressure is then applied to the glass, and it is allowed to remain for some time in this condition, after which it is carefully lifted, the amalgam adhering to it, and is placed with the amalgamated surface uppermost. Some weeks' rest is required to allow the amalgam to harden, though it occasionally happens that a mirror will not dry for months.

**VERMIN IN THE HAIR OF CHILDREN.**—The most effectual mode of destroying vermin in the hair is to dissolve five grains of bichloride of mercury (corrosive sublimate) in half a pint of distilled water, and wet the hair well with the solution. This lotion must be used with caution, as it is deadly poison if taken into the stomach.

**RICE GLUE.**—Mix together rice-flour and cold water to a thick paste, pressing out all the lumps with a spoon, and making it very smooth. Then dilute it with a little more water (altogether you may allow a gill of water to a tablespoonful of rice-flour), and boil it slowly as long as you would boil starch, stirring it frequently. When done, set it to cool. Use it for pasting fine paper, and for any little ornamental articles made of pasteboard. It is a very nice and durable cement. The water in which rice has been boiled for the table will afford a cement for slight purposes.

**WRINKLES, LINES, CROW'S-FEET, ETC.**—To remove these when presenting themselves prematurely, or when the results of severe illness, as well as to ward them off at that time of life when they may be expected to show themselves, several essential points must be observed. The face should be well bathed in cold water every morning, winter as well as summer, by means of a sponge. Curd, honey, or common yellow soap should be used in washing the face previous to the bathing. The oftener cold water is applied to the face the better. If any roughness of the skin ensues, a little cold cream, applied at



night, will soon remove it. Then, again, as much exercise as can be conveniently taken in the open air, every day, is to be practiced. The diet must be generous, but wholesome. Plenty of substantial food should be taken with port wine, or stout or porter. Vinegar, pickles, and other acids must be avoided.

**ENGRAVING ON GLASS.**—To engrave on glass, fluoric acid is used, either in the liquid state or in vapor. This acid is kept in metal bottles, and requires very careful handling. The glass must be warmed and coated with wax, and the writing or design traced through the wax with a pointed instrument. The liquid fluoric acid is poured on it, and permitted to act upon the uncovered portions of the glass; or pour some of the acid in a small lead pan, which place in a still larger vessel filled with sand. Heat this sand and place the glass object over the gas, liberated from the heated acid, and it will soon be beautifully etched. Great care must be taken during this operation, for the gas, as well as the acid, is of a very deleterious character. The same effect may be produced by using fluorspar, powdered and made into a paste with oil of vitriol, and then laid over the prepared surface and covered with lead-foil.

**LAUGHING GAS.**—The following is a good recipe for making laughing gas: Two ounces of nitrate of ammonia in a retort having a large ox bladder fixed to collect the gas. The process is—first insert into the neck of the bladder a wooden pipe stop-cock, made of elder with the pith pushed out. Next moisten the bladder, and squeeze it up to remove the air, then fix it to the retort containing the ammonia. Now heat the salt with a spirit lamp; it first liquefies, then boils and decomposes, producing water (which remains in the retort) and the gas (which passes into the bladder); when the bladder is full the experiment can be performed. Hold the bladder in the left hand, placing the thumb over the pipe to retain the gas; with the right close the nostrils, then empty the lungs by a long expiration, after which insert into the mouth the pipe attached to the bladder, and breathe in the same manner as if it were common air. In one or two minutes, if the experiment be successful, an elysian sensation will follow, more exquisite than can be described, and perfectly harmless.

**SILVERING GLASS GLOBES.**—The following is a recipe for silvering glass globes: To half an ounce of lead add half an ounce of fine tin, and melt them together in an iron ladle; when in a state of fusion, add half an ounce of bismuth, skim off the dross, remove the ladle from the fire, and before it solidifies add five ounces of quicksilver, and stir the whole well together, being careful not to breathe over it, as the fumes of the quicksilver are very injurious. The operation should be performed under a hood communicating with a chimney of good draught, to carry off the vapors; or, to four ounces of quicksilver put as much tinfoil as will become barely fluid when mixed. Have the globe clean, dry, and warm, and inject the metal by means of a clean glass or earthen pipe at the aperture, turning it about until it is silvered all over; let the remainder run out, and the operation is finished.

**HOARSENESS OR TICKLING IN THE THROAT.**—Take a small quantity of dry pulverized borax, place it on the tongue, and let it slowly dissolve, and run down the throat. It is also good to keep the throat moist at night, and prevent coughing.

**TO CURE FRECKLES.**—Mix together two ounces of lemon juice, one drachm of pulverized borax, one half drachm of sugar: allow them to stand in a bottle for a few days. Rub occasionally over the face and hands.

**TO REMOVE STAINS FROM THE HANDS.**—A few drops of oil vitrol (sulphuric acid) in water, will take the stains of fruit, dark dyes, stove blacking, etc., from the hands without injuring them. Care must, however, be taken not to drop it upon the clothes. It will remove the color from woolen, and eat holes in cotton fabrics.

**TO PREPARE AN INVIGORATING BATH.**—A tablespoonful or more of pulverized borax thrown into the bath-tub while bathing, will communicate a velvety softness to the water, and at the same time invigorate the bather. Persons troubled with nervousness or wakeful nights will find this kind of bath very beneficial—more so than sea-bathing.

**TO CLEAN SILVER.**—Table silver should be cleaned at least once or twice a week, and can easily be kept in good order, and polished brightly. Have your dish-pan half full of boiling water; place the silver in so that it may become warm, then, with a soft cloth dipped into the hot water, soaped and sprinkled with pulverized borax, scour well; rinse in clear hot water; dry with a clean, dry cloth.

**TO DESTROY COCKROACHES, ANTS AND OTHER HOUSEHOLD VERMIN.**—Hellebore, rubbed over with molasses and put round the places that cockroaches frequent, is a very effectual poison for them. Arsenic, spread on bread and butter and placed round rat or mouse-holes, will soon put a stop to their ravages. Quicksilver and the white of an egg, beat together and laid with a feather round the crevices of the bedsteads and the sacking, is very effectual in destroying bugs in them. To kill flies, when so numerous as to be troublesome, keep cobalt wet with spirit in a large shallow plate. The spirit will attract the flies and the cobalt will kill them very soon. Black pepper is said to be good to destroy them; it should be mixed, so as to be very strong, with a little cream and sugar. Great care is necessary in using the above poisons where there are any children, as they are so apt to eat anything that comes in their way, and these poisons will prove as fatal to them as to vermin (excepting the pepper). The flour of sulphur is said to be good to drive ants away if sprinkled around the places that they frequent. Sage is also good. Weak brine will kill worms in gravel walks, if kept moist with it a week in the spring and three or four days in the fall.

**PRESERVATIVES AGAINST THE RAVAGES OF MOTHS.**—Moths are very apt to eat woolen and fur garments early in the summer. To keep them from the garments, take them late in the spring, when not worn, and put them in a chest with considerable



camphor gum. Cedar chips or tobacco leaves are also good for this purpose. When moths get into garments, the best thing to destroy them is to hang the garments in a closet and make a strong smoke of tobacco leaves under them. In order to do it, have a pan of live coals in the closet and sprinkle on the tobacco leaves.

**TO DYE BLACK.**—Allow a pound of logwood to each pound of goods that is to be dyed. Soak it over night in soft water, then boil it an hour and strain the water in which it is boiled. For each pound of logwood dissolve an ounce of blue vitriol in lukewarm water sufficient to wet the goods. Dip the goods in; when saturated with it, turn the whole into the logwood dye. If the goods are cotton, set the vessel on the fire and let the goods boil for ten or fifteen minutes, stirring them constantly to prevent their spotting. Silk and woolen goods should not be boiled in the dye-stuff, but it should be kept at a scalding heat for twenty minutes. Drain the goods without wringing and hang them in a dry, shady place, where they will have the air. When dry, set the color by, put them into scalding hot water that has salt in it in the proportion of a teacupful to three gallons of the water. Let the goods remain in it till cold, then hang them where they will dry; they should not be wrung. Boiling hot suds is the best thing to set the color of black silk; let it remain in it till cold. Soaking black-dyed goods in sour milk is also good to set the color.

**GREEN AND BLUE DYE FOR SILKS AND WOOLENS.**—For green dye, take a pound of oil of vitriol and turn it upon half an ounce of Spanish indigo that has been reduced to a fine powder. Stir them well together, then add a lump of pearl-ash of the size of a pea; as soon as the fermentation ceases, bottle it; the dye will be fit for use the next day. Chemical blue is made in the same manner, only using half the quantity of vitriol. For woolen goods the East indigo will answer as well as the Spanish, and comes much lower. This dye will not answer for cotton goods, as the vitriol rots the threads. Wash the articles that are to be dyed till perfectly clean and free from color. If you cannot extract the color by rubbing it in hot suds, boil it out, rinse it in soft water till entirely free from soap, as the soap will ruin the dye. To dye a pale color, put to each quart of soft warm water that is to be used for the dye ten drops of the above composition; if you wish a deep color, more will be necessary. Put in the articles without crowding, and let them remain in till of a good color; the dye-stuff should be kept warm; take the articles out without wringing, drain as much of the dye out of them as possible, then hang them up to dry in a shady, airy place. They should be dyed when the weather is dry; if not dried quick they will not look nice. When perfectly dry, wash them in lukewarm suds, to keep the vitriol from injuring the texture of the cloth. If you wish for a lively bright green, mix a little of the above composition with yellow dye.

**YELLOW DYES.**—To dye buff color, boil equal parts of annatto and common potash in soft, clear water. When dissolved take it from the fire; when cool, put in the goods, which should

previously be washed free from spots and color; set them on a moderate fire where they will keep hot till the goods are of the shade you wish. To dye salmon and orange color, tie annatto in a bag and soak it in warm soft soap suds till it becomes soft, so that you can squeeze enough of it through the bag to make the suds a deep yellow; put in the articles, which should be clean and free from color; boil them till of the shade you wish. There should be enough of the dye to cover the goods; stir them while boiling, to keep them from spotting. This dye will make a salmon or orange color, according to the strength of it and the time the goods remain in. Drain them out of the dye and dry them quick in the shade; when dry, wash them in soft soap suds. Goods dyed in this manner should never be rinsed in clear water. Peach leaves, fustic and saffron all make a good straw or lemon color, according to the strength of the dye. They should be steeped in fair soft water in an earthen or tin vessel, and then strained and the dye set with alum and a little gum arabic dissolved in the dye, if you wish to stiffen the article. When the dye-stuff is strained, steep the articles in it.

**RED DYES.**—Madder makes a good durable red, but not a brilliant color. To make dye of it, allow for half a pound of it three ounces of alum and one of cream of tartar and six gallons of water. This proportion of ingredients will make sufficient dye for six or seven pounds of goods. Heat half of the water scalding hot in a clean brass kettle, then put in the alum and cream of tartar, and let it dissolve. When the water boils, stir the alum and tartar up in it, put in the goods, and let them boil a couple of hours, then rinse them in fair water; empty the kettle and put in three gallons of water and the madder; rub it fine in the water, and then put in the goods, and set them where they will keep scalding hot for an hour, without boiling; stir them constantly. When they have been scalding an hour, increase the fire till they boil. Let them boil five minutes; then drain them out of the dye, and rinse them, without wringing, in fair water, and hang them in the shade, where they will dry. To dye a fine crimson, take for each pound of goods two and a half ounces of alum, an ounce and a half of white tartar; put them in a brass kettle, with sufficient fair water to cover your goods; set it where it will boil briskly for several minutes; then put in the goods, which should be washed clean and rinsed in fair water. When the goods have boiled half an hour, take them out, without wringing, and hang where they will cool all over alike, without drying; empty out the alum and tartar water, put fresh water in the kettle, and for each pound of goods to be dyed put in an ounce of cochineal, powdered fine. Set the kettle on the fire, and let the water boil fifteen or twenty minutes; then put in sufficient cold water to make it lukewarm, put in the goods, and boil them an hour and a quarter; take them out without wringing, and dry them in a shady place. The blossoms of the Balm of Gilead, steeped with fair water in a vessel, then strained, will give silk a pretty red color. The silk should be washed clean and free from color, then rinsed in fair water and boiled in the strained dye with a small piece of alum. To dye a fine delicate pink, use a carmine saucer. The directions for dying come with

the saucers. It is too expensive a dye for bulky goods, but for faded fancy shawls and ribbons it is quite worth the while to use it, as it gives a beautiful shade of pink.

**SLATE-COLORED DYE.**—To make a good dark slate color, boil sugar-loaf paper with vinegar in an iron utensil; put in alum to set the color. Tea grounds, set with copperas, makes a good slate color. To produce a light slate color, boil white maple bark in clear water with a little alum; the bark should be boiled in a brass utensil. The dye for slate color should be strained before the goods are put into it. They should be boiled in it and then hung where they will drain and dry.

**TO SET COLORS, ETC.**—An ox's gall will set any color—silk, cotton, or woollen. I have seen the colors of calico which faded at one washing fixed by it. When one lives near a slaughter-house it is worth while to buy cheap, fading goods, and set them in this way. The gall can be bought for a few cents. Get out all the liquid and cork it up in a large vial. One large spoonful of this in a gallon of warm water is sufficient. This is likewise excellent for taking out spots from bombazine, bombazet, etc. After being washed in this they look about as well as when new. It must be thoroughly stirred into the water and not put upon the cloth. It is used without soap. After being washed in this, cloth which you want to *clean* should be washed in warm suds, without using soap.

**TO MAKE SOAP.**—If you burn wood you can use your own lye, but the ashes of coal are not worth much. Bore small holes in the bottom of a barrel, place four bricks around, and fill the barrel with ashes. Wet the ashes well, but not enough to drop; let it soak thus three or four days; then pour a gallon of water in every hour or two for a day or more, and let it drop into a pail or tub beneath. Keep it dripping till the color of the lye shows the strength is exhausted. If your lye is not strong enough, you must fill your barrel with fresh ashes, and let the lye run through it. Some people take a barrel without any bottom, and lay sticks and straw across to prevent the ashes from falling through. To make a barrel of soap it will require about five or six bushels of ashes, with at least four quarts of unslacked stone lime; if slacked, double the quantity. When you have drawn off part of the lye, put the lime (whether slack or not) into two or three pails of boiling water, and add it to the ashes, and let it drain through. It is the practice of some people, in making soap, to put the lime near the bottom of the ashes when they first set it up; but the lime becomes like mortar, and the lye does not run through, so as to get the strength of it, which is very important in making soap, as it contracts the nitrous salts which collect in ashes, and prevents the soap from *coming* (as the saying is). Old ashes are very apt to be impregnated with it. Three pounds of grease should be put into a pailful of lye. The great difficulty in making soap "*come*," originates in want of judgment about the strength of the lye. One rule may be safely trusted—If your lye will bear up an egg, or a potato, so that you can see a piece of the surface as big as a shilling, it is just strong enough. If

it sink below the top of the lye, it is too weak, and will never make soap; if it is buoyed up half way, the lye is too strong; and that is just as bad. A bit of quick-lime, thrown in while the lye and grease are boiling together, is of service. When the soap becomes thick and ropy, carry it down cellar in pails and empty it into a barrel. Cold soap is less trouble, because it does not need to boil; the sun does the work of fire. The lye must be prepared and tried in the usual way. The grease must be tried out, and strained from the scraps. Two pounds of grease (instead of three) must be used to a pailful; unless the weather is very sultry, the lye should be hot when put to the grease. It should stand in the sun, and be stirred every day. If it does not begin to look like soap in the course of five or six days, add a little hot lye to it; if this does not help it, try whether it be grease that it wants. Perhaps you will think cold soap wasteful, because the grease must be strained; but if the scraps are boiled thoroughly in strong lye, the grease will all float upon the surface, and nothing be lost.

**BAYBERRY, OR MYRTLE SOAP.**—Dissolve two pounds and a quarter of white potash in five quarts of water, then mix it with ten pounds of myrtle wax, or bayberry tallow. Boil the whole over a slow fire, till it turns to soap, then add a teacup of cold water—let it boil ten minutes longer—at the end of that time turn it into tin molds, or pans, and let them remain a week or ten days to dry, then turn them out of the molds. If you wish to have the soap scented, stir into it any essential oil that has an agreeable smell, just before you turn it into the molds. This kind of soap is excellent for shaving, and chapped hands—it is also good for eruptions on the face. It will be fit for use in the course of three or four weeks after it is made, but it is better for being kept ten or twelve months.

**SOAP FROM SCRAPS.**—Dissolve eighteen pounds of potash in three pailfuls of water; then add to it twenty-five pounds of grease, and boil it over a slow fire for a couple of hours. Turn it into a barrel, and fill it up with water.

**COLD SOAP.**—Heat twenty-six pounds of strained grease. When melted, mix it with four pailfuls of lye, made of twenty pounds of white potash. Let the whole stand in the sun, stirring it frequently. In the course of a week, fill the barrel with weak lye. This method of making soap is much easier than to make a lye of your ashes, while it is as cheap, if you sell your ashes to the soap-boiler.

**HARD SOAP.**—Dissolve twenty weight of white potash in three pailfuls of water. Heat twenty pounds of strained grease, then mix it with the dissolved potash; and boil them together till the whole becomes a thick jelly, which is ascertained by taking a little of it out to get cold. Take it from the fire, stir in cold water till it grows thin, then put to each pailful of soap a pint of blown salt—stir it in well. The succeeding day, separate it from the lye, and heat it over a slow fire. Let it boil a quarter of an hour, then take it from the fire. If you wish to have it a yellow color, put it in a little palm oil, and turn it out into wood-



en vessels. When cold, separate it again from the lye, and cut it in bars—let them remain in the sun several days to dry.

**WINDSOR AND CASTILE SOAP.**—To make the celebrated Windsor soap, nothing more is necessary than to slice the best white soap as thin as possible, and melt it over a slow fire. Take it from the fire when melted, and when it is just lukewarm add enough of the oil of caraway to scent it. If any other fragrant oil is liked better, it may be substituted. Turn it into molds, and let it remain in a dry situation for five or six days. To make Castile soap, boil common soft soap in lamp oil three hours and a half.

**SHAVING SOAP.**—A very nice soap for shaving may be made by mixing a quarter of a pound of Castile soap, one cake of old Windsor soap, a gill of lavender water, the same of Cologne water, and a very little alcohol. Boil all these together, until thoroughly mixed.

**HOW TO WASH FLANNELS.**—There are many conflicting theories in regard to the proper way to wash flannels, but I am convinced, from careful observation, that the true way is to wash them in water in which you can comfortably bear your hand. Make suds before putting the flannels in, and do not rub soap on the flannel. I make it a rule to have only one piece of flannel put in the tub at a time. Wash in two suds if much soiled; then rinse thoroughly in clean, weak suds, wring and hang up; but do not take flannels out of warm water and hang out in a freezing air, as that certainly tends to shrink them. It is better to dry them in the house, unless the sun shines. In washing worsted goods, such as men's pantaloons, pursue the same course; only do not wring them, but hang them up and let them drain; while a little damp, bring them in and press smoothly with as hot an iron as you can use without scorching the goods. The reason for not wringing them is to prevent wrinkles.

**HOW TO MAKE AN OTTOMAN.**—A neat and useful ottoman may be made by taking a box in which fine-cut tobacco is packed, and covering it with cretonne. The top may be taken off and on without difficulty if, after covering, a narrow ruffle to fall over the edge is tacked on. An ottoman of this sort is convenient in the bedroom, where it may serve as a receptacle for stockings. If one does not care to buy cretonne, bits of carpet may be used for the covering. Burlap also makes a pretty cover, worked in some simple but showy pattern.

**HOW TO MAKE FURNITURE COVERS.**—Pretty furniture that is used every day must be protected in some way, and there are many coverings which are really ornamental. For instance, a couch may be kept from fading by taking a piece of Turkish toweling the required length—that is, a little longer than the couch, so that it will fall over the ends, and not slide down and wrinkle; put scallops of flannel on the edge. A border or center-piece, or simply a vine worked in some bright color across the ends, makes a pretty addition to it. Tildies that are very serviceable may be made of brown linen with an *applique* stripe

of cretonne flowers. The easiest and most satisfactory way to prepare cretonne for transferring is to first work the figure which is to be cut out with the button-hole stitch, and then cut around that. When it is placed upon broadcloth, or any material which will not require washing, sew it with long stitches on the wrong side; but when transferring to the linen, sew it firmly, so that it will keep its place when washed. The tidies may be finished by putting fringe or yellow lace across the ends; turn down and hem on the sides, and feather-stitch with worsted or working cotton or silk.

## CANDIES.

**COCOA-NUT CANDY.**—Grate very fine a sound cocoa-nut, spread it on a dish, and let it dry naturally for three days, as it will not bear the heat of an oven, and is too oily for use when freshly broken. Four ounces will be sufficient for a pound of sugar for most tastes, but more can be used at pleasure. To one pound of sugar take one half-pint of water, a very little white of egg, and then pour over the sugar; let it stand for a short time, then place over a very clear fire, and let it boil for a few minutes, then set it one side until the scum is subsided, clear it off, and boil the sugar until very thick, then strew in the nut, stir and mix it well, and do not quit for an instant until it is finished. The pan should not be placed on the fire; but over it, as the nut is liable to burn with too fierce a heat.

**ALMOND CANDY.**—Proceed in the same way as for cocoa-nut candy. Let the almonds be perfectly dry, and do not throw them into the sugar until they approach the candying point.

**TO CANDY NUTS.**—Three cups of sugar, one cup of water; boil until it hardens when dropped in water, then flavor with lemon. It must not boil after the lemon is put in. Put a nut on the end of a fine knitting-needle, take out and turn on the needle until it is cool. If the candy gets cold, set on the stove for a few minutes. Malaga grapes and oranges, quartered, may be candied in the same way.

**CHOCOLATE CARAMELS.**—Take of grated chocolate, milk, molasses, and sugar, each one cupful, and a piece of butter the size of an egg; boil until it will harden when dropped into cold water; add vanilla; put in a buttered pan, and before it cools mark off in square blocks.

**CHOCOLATE CARAMELS, No. 2.**—One-half pound of grated chocolate, two teacups of sugar, one-half cup of milk and water, a lump of butter, a teaspoon of alum.

**SUGAR-CANDY.**—Six cups of white sugar, one cup of vinegar, one cup of water, a tablespoonful of butter put in at the last, with one teaspoonful of soda dissolved in hot water. Boil without stirring one-half hour. Flavor to suit the taste.

**CREAM CANDY.**—Four cups of sugar, two cups of water, three-fourths of a cup of vinegar, one cup of cream or rich milk, a piece of butter the size of an egg, two teaspoonfuls of vanilla, a pinch of soda. Let it boil until it cracks in water, then work very white.



**MAPLE CANDY.**—Four cups of maple syrup, boil until it cracks in water, and, just before taking from the fire, put in a piece of butter the size of an egg. If preferred waxy, do not let it cook so long.

**BUTTER SCOTCH.**—One cup of molasses, one cup of sugar, one-half cup of butter. Boil until done.

**PEPPERMINT DROPS.**—Pour half a cupful of boiling water on two cupfuls of granulated sugar; boil for five minutes, stir in a tablespoonful of essence of peppermint, and stir over the fire till thick, and then drop from a spoon upon buttered paper and let them harden.

**MOLASSES CANDY.**—Two quarts of West India molasses, one pound of brown sugar, the juice of two large lemons, or a teaspoonful of strong essence of lemon. Mix together the molasses and sugar, taking care to use West India molasses, which, for this purpose, is much the best. Put the mixture into a preserving-kettle, and boil it for three hours over a moderate fire. When it is thoroughly done, it will of itself cease boiling. If sufficiently boiled it will be crisp and brittle when cold. If not boiled enough, it will never congeal, but will be tough and ropy, and must be boiled over again. While boiling stir it frequently, and take care that it does not burn. After it has boiled about two hours and a half, stir in the lemon juice or essence of lemon. It will be improved by adding the yellow rind of the lemon, grated so fine as not to be visible when boiled. If the lemon is put in too soon, all the taste will be boiled out. When it is quite done, butter a square pan and pour the mixture into it to cool. If you prefer the candy with ground-nuts, roast a quart of them, and then shell and blanch them. Stir the ground-nuts into the mixture a few minutes before you take it from the fire. Stir them in gradually. In the same manner you may make it with almonds. The almonds must be blanched, cut in pieces, and stirred in raw, when the molasses and sugar have just done boiling. If you wish to make it yellow, take some from the pan while it is yet warm, and pull it out into a thick string between the thumb and fore-finger of both hands. Extend your arms widely as you pull the candy backwards and forwards. By repeating this for a long time it will gradually become of a light yellow color and of a spongy consistence. When it is quite yellow, roll it into sticks; twist two sticks together, and cut them off smoothly at both ends. Or you may variegate it by twisting together a stick that is quite yellow and one that, not having been so much pulled, still remains brown.

## WINES, ETC.

**MULLED WINE.**—Boil a pint of wine with nutmeg, cloves, and sugar, serve it with slices of toasted bread, or beat up the yolks of four eggs with a little cold wine, and mix them carefully with the hot wine, pour it backward and forward till it looks fine, heat it again over the fire till it is tolerably thick, pour it backward and forward, and serve with toasted bread as above; or boil some spice in a little water till the flavor is

extracted, then add a pint of port wine, with some sugar and nutmeg.

**COMMON BEER.**—Two gallons of water to a large handful of hops is the rule. A little fresh-gathered spruce or sweet fern makes the beer more agreeable, and you may allow a quart of wheat bran to the mixture; then boil it two or three hours. Strain it through a sieve, and stir in, while the liquor is hot, a teacup of molasses to every gallon. Let it stand till lukewarm, pour it into a clean barrel, and add good yeast, a pint, if the barrel is nearly full; shake it well together; it will be fit for use the next day.

**SPRUCE BEER.**—Allow an ounce of hops and a spoonful of ginger to a gallon of water. When well boiled, strain it, and put in a pint of molasses, and half an ounce or less of the essence of spruce; when cool, add a teacup of yeast, and put into a clean tight cask, and let it ferment for a day or two, then bottle it for use. You can boil the sprigs of spruce fir in room of the essence.

**GINGER BEER QUICKLY MADE.**—A gallon of boiling water is poured over three-quarters of a pound of loaf sugar, one ounce of ginger, and the peel of one lemon; when milk-warm, the juice of the lemon and a spoonful of yeast are added. It should be made in the evening, and bottled next morning, in stone bottles, and the cork tied down with twine. Good brown sugar will answer, and the lemon may be omitted, if cheapness is required.

**LEMONADE.**—Three lemons to a pint of water makes strong lemonade; sweeten to your taste. This is the best beverage for parties: cool, refreshing, pleasant and salubrious.

**ORANGEADE.**—Roll and press the juice from the oranges in the same way as from lemons. It requires less sugar than lemonade. The water must be pure and cold, and then there can be nothing more delicious than these two kinds of drink.

**CURRENT WINE.**—Break and squeeze the currants, put three pounds and a half of sugar to two quarts of juice and two quarts of water. Put it in a keg or barrel. Do not close the bung tight for three or four days, that the air may escape while it is fermenting. After it is done fermenting, close it up tight. Where raspberries are plenty, it is a great improvement to use half raspberry juice and half currant juice. Brandy is unnecessary when the above-mentioned proportions are observed. It should not be used under a year or two. Age improves it.

**GINGER BEER.**—Put into a kettle two ounces of powdered ginger (or more if it is not very strong), half an ounce of cream of tartar, two large lemons cut in slices, two pounds of broken loaf-sugar, and one gallon of soft water. Simmer them over a slow fire for half an hour. When the liquor is nearly cold, stir into it a large tablespoonful of the best yeast. After it has fermented bottle for use.

**CIDER.**—To keep cider sweet allow it to work until it has

reached the state most desirable to the taste, then add one and a half tumblers grated horse-radish to each barrel, and shake up well. This arrests further fermentation. After remaining a few weeks rack off and bung up closely in clean casks.

**RASPBERRY VINEGAR.**—It is best made by putting carefully-gathered and very ripe raspberries into jars, and, when as full as they will hold of the fruit, fill up the jars with good vinegar. After eight or ten days the vinegar is poured off, and the fruit allowed to drain for some hours. The mixture of vinegar and juice thus obtained is added to another quantity of fruit and treated in the same way. This is sometimes repeated a third time, and then the liquid is gently boiled for about five minutes with its own weight of good sugar. Added to water it makes a most refreshing summer drink, and is of much use as a cooling beverage in sickness.

**PEPPERMINT CORDIAL.**—Take thirteen gallons of rectified spirit, one in five under hydrometer proof, twelve pounds of loaf-sugar, one pint of spirit of wine that will fire gun-powder, fifteen pennyweights of oil of peppermint, and as much water as will fill up the cask, which should be set on end after the whole has been well roused. Enough for twenty gallons.

**GRAPE WINE.**—Put twenty pounds of ripe, well-selected, fresh-picked grapes into a stone jar, and pour on them six quarts of boiling water. When the water has become sufficiently cool, squeeze the grapes well with the hand; cover the jar with a cloth, and let it stand for three days: then press out the juice, and add ten pounds of crushed sugar. After it has stood for a week, skim, strain, and bottle it, corking it loosely. When the fermentation is complete, strain it again and bottle it, corking tightly. Lay the bottles on their sides in a cool place.

**GINGER WINE.**—Boil together for one hour nine gallons of water, twenty-seven pounds of sugar, the rinds of nine lemons, and twelve ounces of bruised ginger; remove the scum as it rises, and when sufficiently boiled put it into a large tub or pan, as it must not remain in the copper. When nearly cold, add three tablespoonfuls of yeast; the next day put all in a dry cask with the strained lemon-juice and two pounds of chopped raisins; stir the wine every day for a fortnight, then add the brandy, and stop the cask down by degrees, and in a few weeks it will be fit to bottle.

**SPRUCE BEER, No. 2.**—Take four ounces of hops, boil half an hour in one gallon of water, strain it, add sixteen gallons of warm water, two gallons of molasses, eight ounces of essence of spruce, dissolved in one quart of water; put it in a clean cask, shake it well together, add a half pint of yeast, let it stand and work one week; if warm weather, less time will do. When drawn off, add one spoonful of molasses to each bottle.

**COTTAGE BEER.**—Take a peck of good wheat bran, and put it into ten gallons of water, with three handfuls of good hops, and boil the whole together until the bran and hops sink to the bottom. Then strain it through a hair sieve, or a thin cloth, into

a cooler, and when it is about lukewarm add two quarts of molasses. As soon as the molasses is melted, pour the whole into a ten-gallon cask, with two tablespoonfuls of yeast. When the fermentation has subsided, bung up the cask, and in four days it will be ready to use.

**ELDERBERRY WINE.**—Take one quart of pure elderberry juice, two quarts of water, three pounds sugar (the best sugar for this purpose is what we call molasses sugar, viz., sugar that settles from molasses into the bottom of hogsheads;) mix all together, and let it ferment until it works itself clear; strain and bottle; leave the bottles uncorked until it is done working, then cork and put away in a cellar, and in a few months you will have good wine, but age will improve it.

**ELDERBERRY WINE No. 2.**—Boil three gallons of elderberries in two and one half gallons of water for twenty minutes, then strain through a fine sieve, not bruising the berries; then measure the liquid into a boiler, and to every quart add one pound of moist sugar and the peel of four lemons; place on fire and heat scalding hot; add the whites of four eggs, well beaten, stirring into the liquid. When the liquor is cool place it in a keg; place a piece of toasted bread, spread with compressed yeast as you would butter, in the keg; bung the keg air-tight; a quarter of a pound of bruised ginger placed in a keg gives the wine a fine flavor; let it remain in the keg from six to eight weeks, when it will be ready to bottle.

**HOUSEHOLD BEER.**—Two gallons of water, two pounds of treacle, one ounce of hops, one ounce of ginger bruised, one ounce of linseed. Boil all together for two hours, then strain and cover with a thick cloth. When lukewarm, add a quarter of a pound of yeast; cover again for twenty-four hours, and then bottle it in porter bottles.

**EAU DE COLOGNE.**—Alcohol at eighty-five degrees, ten quarts; essence of neroli, two drachms; essence of rosemary, ten drachms; essence of lavender, five drachms; essence of thyme, one drachm; essence of lemon, three ounces; tincture of benzoin, two drachms; rose water, one pint; essence of bergamot, five ounces.

**GINGER BEER.**—Pour three gallons of boiling water on two and a half pounds of preserving sugar, three ounces of bruised ginger, and four lemons cut in very thin slices. Let it stand till nearly cold, then add a dessertspoonful of brewers' yeast spread on toast. Let it stand all night, then strain and bottle. Another way is to take one pound of sugar, one ounce of ginger, half an ounce of carbonate of soda, half an ounce of tartaric acid, and a quarter of an ounce of cream of tartar. Well pound the ginger, put all into an earthen vessel, add a gallon of water not quite boiling; let it stand till cold, then put a tablespoonful of barm on toast, and let it stand till the next day. Bottle it, and lay it down for two days, when it will be ready for use.

**BLACKBERRY CORDIAL.**—Warm and squeeze the berries; add to one pint of juice one pound of white sugar, one-half ounce of powdered cinnamon, one-fourth ounce of mace, two tea-



spoonfuls of cloves. Boil all together for one-fourth of an hour; strain the syrup, and to each pint add a glass of French brandy. Two or three doses of a tablespoonful or less will check any slight diarrhea. When the attack is violent, give a tablespoonful after each discharge until the complaint is in subjection. It will arrest dysentery if given in season, and is a pleasant and safe remedy.

**BLACKBERRY WINE.**—To one gallon of mashed berries add one quart of boiling water, and let it stand twenty-four hours: then strain them, and to every gallon of juice add three pounds of brown sugar. Put in a jug or demijohn, and cover with a thin piece of muslin until October; then bottle it off.

**WINE WHEY.**—Sweeten one pint of milk to taste, and when boiling throw in two wineglasses of sherry; when the curd forms, strain the whey through a muslin bag into tumblers.

**BLACKBERRY SYRUP.**—One quart of blackberry juice, one pound of sugar, one-half ounce of nutmeg, one-half ounce of cinnamon, one-fourth of an ounce of cloves, one-fourth of an ounce of allspice.

**ROMAN PUNCH.**—Two quarts of cold water, one of Madeira wine, half a pint of brandy, the juice of six lemons, and two quarts of sugar. This is very hard to freeze. In winter use snow instead of ice.

**SAGE WINE.**—Boil twenty-six quarts of spring water a quarter of an hour, and when it is blood-warm, put twenty-five pounds of Malaga raisins, picked, rubbed and shred, into it, with almost half a bushel of red sage shred, and half a pint of ale yeast; stir all well together, and let it stand in a tub, covered warm, six or seven days, stirring it once a day; then strain it off, and put it in a cask. Let it work three or four days, and then stop it up. When it has stood six or seven days, put in a quart or two of Malaga sack, and when it is fine, bottle it.

**BIRCH BEER.**—Take four ounces of hops, boil half an hour in one gallon of water, strain it, add sixteen gallons of warm water, two gallons of molasses, eight ounces of essence of birch, dissolved in one quart of water; put in a clean cask, shake it well together; add a half pint of yeast, let it stand and work one week; if warm weather less time will do. When drawn off, add one spoonful of molasses to each bottle.

**SUGAR BEER.**—Take one and a half pounds of hops, and boil in thirty-six gallons of water for an hour; then add fourteen pounds of dark brown sugar, and a little yeast to work it; ferment and bottle.

## ANTIDOTES FOR POISONS.

The following list gives some of the more common poisons and the remedies most likely to be on hand in case of need.

**ACIDS.**—These cause great heat and sensation of burning pain from the mouth down to the stomach. Remedies: Magnesia, soda, pearl ash, or soap dissolved in water; then use stomach-pump, or emetic.



**ALKALI.**—Best remedy is vinegar.

**AMMONIA.**—Remedy, lemon juice, or vinegar.

**ALCOHOL.**—First cleanse out the stomach by an emetic, then dash cold water on the head, and give ammonia (spirits of hartshorn).

**ARSENIC.**—Remedies: In the first place, evacuate the stomach, then give the white of eggs, lime water, or chalk and water, charcoal, and the preparation of iron, particularly hydrate.

**LAUDANUM.**—Same as opium.

**BELLADONNA.**—Give emetics, and then plenty of vinegar and water, or lemonade.

**MORPHINE.**—Same as opium.

**CHARCOAL.**—In poisons by carbonic gas, remove the patient to the open air, dash cold water on the head and body, and stimulate the nostrils and lungs with hartshorn, at the same time rubbing the chest briskly.

**CORROSIVE SUBLIMATE.**—Give white of egg freshly mixed with water, or give wheat flour and water, or soap and water freely, or salt and water.

**CREOSOTE.**—White of eggs and emetics.

**LEAD.**—White lead and sugar of lead. Remedies: alum; cathartics, such as castor-oil and epsom salts, especially.

**MUSHROOMS WHEN POISONOUS.**—Give emetics, and then plenty of vinegar and water, with doses of ether, if handy.

**NITRATE OF SILVER (LUNAR CAUSTIC).**—Give a strong solution of common salt, and then emetics.

**OPIUM.**—First give a strong emetic of mustard and water, then strong coffee and acid drinks; dash cold water on the head.

**NUX VOMICA.**—First emetics and then brandy.

**OXALIC ACID.**—(Frequently mistaken for epsom salts.) Remedies: chalk, magnesia, or soap and water, and other soothing drinks.

**PRUSSIC ACID.**—When there is time administer chlorine in the shape of soda and lime. Hot brandy and water, hartshorn, and turpentine are also useful.

**SNAKE BITE, ETC.**—Apply immediately strong hartshorn, and take it internally; also give sweet oil and stimulants freely; apply a ligature tightly over the part bitten, and then apply a cupping-glass.

**TARTAR EMETIC.**—Take large doses of tea made of galls, Peruvian bark, or white-oak bark.

**VERDIGRIS.**—Plenty of whites of eggs and water.

**WHITE VITRIOL.**—Give the patient plenty of milk and water.

**A CURE FOR WHISKY-DRINKERS.**—Sulphate of iron five grains, magnesia ten grains, peppermint water eleven drachms, spirit of nutmeg one drachm; twice a day.

**TO RENEW BLACK CASHMERE.**—Take half a pint of ammonia and enough tepid water to dip the breadths and pieces in thoroughly up and down, after which hang on the line to drip and dry partially without wringing; then iron dry on wrong side, when it will look like new.

**TO WASH BLACK CASHMERE.**—Take hard soap-suds, wash your goods thoroughly, and after you have rinsed them in warm water, rinse them in warm coffee, with a teaspoonful of gum arabic water to every pound of goods; take a piece of dark flannel or place a layer of flannel and then one of the goods, and so on until you have finished, then roll up tight and leave until morning, then iron on the wrong side. You can also wash soiled velvet in this way.

**TO POLISH SHIRT FRONTS AND WRISTBANDS.**—Starch the fronts and wristbands as stiff as you can. Starch twice—that is, starch dry; then starch again. Iron your shirt with a box-iron, in the usual way, making the linen nice and firm, but without any attempt at a good finish; don't lift the plaits; your shirt is now ready for polishing, but you ought to have a board same size as a common shirt-board, made of hard wood, and covered with only one ply of plain cotton cloth. Put this board into the breast of your shirt, damp the front very lightly with a wet sponge, then take the polishing-iron, which is flat and beveled at one end—polish gently with the beveled end, taking care not to drive the linen up into wave-like blisters. Of course this requires a little practice, but if you are careful and persevere, in a short time you will be able to give the enamel-like finish which is so much wanted.

**TO CLEAN STRAW-MATTING.**—Wash with a cloth dipped in clean salt and water. Take care to wipe dry, as this prevents its turning yellow. Tar may be removed from either hands or clothing by rubbing well with lard and then washing well with soap and water.

**A SURE WAY TO REMOVE TEA STAINS.**—Mix thoroughly soft soap and salt—say a tablespoonful to a teacup of soap; rub on the spots, and spread the cloth on the grass where the sun will shine on it. Let it lay two or three days; then wash. If the stain is not all out, it will disappear in the second washing. If the spots are wet occasionally while lying on the grass, it will hasten the bleaching.

**HOME-MADE CAMPHOR-ICE.**—Melt half a teacupful of mutton tallow with a piece of camphor gum, the size of a large hickory-nut; pour into a little cup or mold.

**HOME-MADE HARD SOAP.**—Were the good qualities of this inexpensive soap more generally known, no family would go without it. It is valuable for washing clothes, making them very clean and white, without in the least injuring them, and is excellent for flannels and calicoes. It is good also for the hands, making them soft and smooth. Take six pounds each of sal-soda and lard, three pounds of stone lime, four gallons of soft water; dissolve the lime and soda in the water, stirring,

sotting, and pouring off, then return to the kettle, using brass or copper; add the lard and boil until it becomes soap, then pour into a tub; when cold, cut in bars and dry.

**A BEAUTIFUL WHITEWASH.**—To five gallons of whitewash made of well-burned white lime, add a quarter of a pound of whiting, half a pound of loaf sugar, one quart and a half of rice flour, made into a thin and well-cooked paste, and half a pound of white glue dissolved in water; apply warm; previously scrape off all old scaly whitewash; this is like kalsomine, and gives a brilliant and lasting effect.

**GERMAN SILVER.**—1. Common German silver: Copper, eight; nickel, two; zinc, three and a half. This is the commonest that can be made with any regard to the quality of the article produced. It might do for common purposes. If the quantity of nickel be reduced much below this, the alloy will be little better than pale brass, and tarnish rapidly. 2. Good German silver: Copper, eight; nickel, three; zinc, three and a half. This is a very beautiful compound. It has the appearance of silver a little below standard; by some persons it is even preferred to the more expensive compound. We strongly recommend manufacturers not to use a metal inferior to this. 3. Electrum: Copper, eight; nickel, four; zinc, three and a half. This is a compound which, for ease of working and beauty of appearance, is to be preferred to all others by the manufacturer, and is generally preferred by the public. It has a shade of blue, like very highly polished silver; it tarnishes less easily than silver. Nickel: Copper, eight; nickel, six; zinc, three and a half. This is the richest in nickel that can be made without injuring the mechanical properties of the metal. It is a very beautiful compound, but requires a higher heat for fusion than the preceding, and will be found rather more difficult to work. Tutenag: Copper, eight; nickel, three; zinc, four and a half. These properties were obtained by the analysis of a piece of Chinese tutenag of the best ordinary quality; but some of the specimens of Chinese tutenag are equal to the electrum, No. 3, but these are very rare. This alloy is very fusible, but very hard, and not easily rolled; it is the best adapted for casting.

**SHADES.**—Scarlet holland shades, trimmed across the ends with antique lace, are very pretty and serviceable for a dining-room, giving a soft and warm light to the room.

**HOW TO MAKE SCRAP-BAGS.**—It is a good plan to have pretty scrap-bags in sitting-room, bedroom, and dining-room, and to hang one near the sewing-machine. They may be ornamental, and are certainly useful. Since trying this I have saved paper rags enough to buy all the new tinware needed in the house, and have occasionally bought a broom also. Every bit of cloth, every postal card and circular, that would otherwise have been put into the stove as not being worth the trouble of a walk to the regular rag-bag, finds its way into the little scrap-bag. Pretty bags are made of perforated paper, with a simple vine worked around the top, the bottom of the bag being of silk or merino, and the top finished with a crocheted scallop; or they may be made of java canvas, with wire around the top to keep

it in shape; a piece of old hoop-skirt may be used for this purpose.

**HOW TO SEW ON BUTTONS.**—When sewing buttons on children's clothes where there will be much strain on the button, the danger of tearing the cloth out will be greatly lessened by putting a small button directly under the larger outside button. This applies, of course, only to buttons with holes through them.

**HOW TO MAKE NEW FRINGE OUT OF OLD.**—Cretonne table covers and mantel lambrequins may be finished with fringe of which almost every one has a supply. The worsted dress fringe so much worn a year or two ago can now be made use of. It is also serviceable as a finish to mats made of burlap. If the fringe is dark-colored, it may be brightened by tying in lengths of gay worsted.

**HOW TO CLEAN TIN-WARE.**—Do not set apart one day on which to clean your silver or scour your tin-ware; there is danger of its not being done at all. Have your cleaning material ready, and when you are "doing up" the dishes after each meal, clean and polish the silver or tin you have been using. This is a good habit to cultivate.

**WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.**—Every family should be furnished with scales and weights; and it is also advisable to have wooden measures. Two gills make half a pint; two pints make one quart; four quarts make one gallon; half gallon makes a quarter of a peck; one gallon makes half a peck; two gallons make one peck; four gallons make half a bushel; eight gallons make one bushel. About sixty drops of any thin liquid will fill a common-sized teaspoon; four tablespoonfuls, or half a gill, will fill a common-sized wine-glass; four wine-glasses will fill half a pint measure, a common tumbler, or a large coffee-cup. Ten eggs usually weigh one pound before they are broken; eight large ones will weigh one pound; a tablespoonful of salt will weigh about one ounce; one pint of water or milk will weigh one pound; one pint of molasses will weigh one and one-quarter pounds; three teaspoonfuls of baking-powder should weigh one ounce; one quart of flour weighs one pound; one quart of Indian-meal weighs one and a quarter pounds.

**TO GILD PICTURE-FRAMES.**—The surface of the gilt must be carefully covered with a strong size, made by boiling down pieces of white leather or clippings of parchment, till they are reduced to a strong jelly. This coating being dried, eight or ten more must be applied, the size being mixed with a small quantity of whiting. The last coat is composed of screened massicot, or sometimes yellow ochre. Let it dry thoroughly, and then damp the surface a little at the time with a damp sponge, and apply the gold-leaf before this dries. It will immediately adhere, and when dry, those parts which are to be brilliant are to be burnished with an agate or dog's-tooth burnisher.

**TO RAISE THE NAP ON CLOTH.**—When woolens are worn threadbare, as is often the case in elbows, sleeves, cuffs, etc., of men's coats, the coats must be soaked in cold water for half an

hour, then taken out of the water, and put on a board, and the threadbare part of the cloth rubbed with a half-worn hatter's "card," filled with flocks, or with a prickly thistle, until a sufficient nap is raised. When this is done, hang the coat up to dry, and with a hard brush lay the nap the right way. This is the method which is pursued by the dealers in old clothes.

**SILVERED LOOKING-GLASSES.**—Take a sheet of tin-foil and spread it upon the table; then rub mercury upon it with a hare's foot till the two metals incorporate. Lay the plate of glass upon it, and load it with weights, which will have the effect of pressing out the excess of mercury that was applied to the tin-foil. In a few hours the tin-foil will adhere to the glass and convert it into a mirror. About two ounces of mercury are sufficient for covering three square feet of glass.

**TO CLEAN STEEL AND IRON.**—One ounce of soft soap; two ounces of emery, made into a paste; then rub the article for cleaning with wash-leather, and it will give a brilliant polish.

**SAUCE PIQUANTE.**—Brown lightly in an ounce and a half of butter a tablespoonful of eschalots; add a teaspoonful of flour when they are partially done; pour to them half a pint of gravy or good broth, and when it boils add three chilies, a bay-leaf, and a very small bunch of thyme. Let these simmer for twenty minutes; take out the thyme and bay-leaf, add a high seasoning of black pepper and half a wine-glassful of the best vinegar.

**TO CLEAN GOLD.**—Powder some whiting, and make it into a moist paste with some sal volatile. Cover over the gold ornaments and surface with a soft brush, let it dry, and then brush it off with a moderately hard brush.

**IRON RUST.**—This may be removed by salt mixed with a little lemon juice; put in the sun; if necessary, use two applications.

**MILDEW.**—Dip the stained cloth in buttermilk, and lay in the sun.

**CHEAP REFRIGERATORS.**—A flower-pot wrapped in a wet cloth and placed over a butter plate will keep the contents of the plate as hard and firm as if they were set on ice; and milk will not sour if the can containing it be wrapped in a wet cloth.

**TO MEND BROKEN CROCKERY.**—We have used lime and the white of an egg for mending earthenware, and find it most satisfactory. It is a strong cement, easily applied, and generally at hand. Mix only enough to mend one article at a time, as it soon hardens, when it cannot be used. Powder a small quantity of the lime, and mix to a paste with the white. Apply quickly to the edges, and place firmly together. It will soon become set and strong, seldom breaking in the same place again.

**HOW TO CLEAN A TEA OR COFFEE POT.**—If the inside of your tea or coffee pot is black from long use, fill it with water, throw in a piece of hard soap, set on the stove, and let it boil from half an hour to an hour. It will clean as bright as a new dollar, and cost no work,



**TINNED WARE.**—Tinned ware which speedily loses its brightness should be distrusted. It usually contains lead, which is dissolved by very feeble acids, and is very poisonous. Iodide of potassium is the antidote.

**ÆOLIAN HARP.**—An æolian harp is composed of a rectangular box, made of thin boards, about five inches deep and six inches wide, and the proper length to fit across the window in which it is to be placed. At the top of each end of the box is glued a strip of wood about half an inch in height. These strips serve as a bridge for the strings, which are stretched lengthwise across the top of the box. The strings should be of cat-gut or wire, tuned in unison by means of pegs constructed to control their tension, as in the violin. The instrument is simply placed in a window, partly open, so as to allow a current of air to pass over the strings, thus producing a combination in tones constantly varying in pitch and intensity with the force of the wind.

**RED ANTS.**—To exterminate red ants, grease a plate with lard and set it where the insects abound. They prefer lard to anything else, and will forsake sugar for it. Place a few sticks around the plate for the ants to climb up on. Occasionally turn the plate bottom up over the fire, and the ants will fall in with the melted lard. Reset the plate, and in a short time you will catch them all. Powdered borax sprinkled around the infested places will exterminate both red and black ants.

**HOW TO CLEAN MARBLE.**—The following is an excellent way of cleaning marble: First, brush the dust off the piece to be cleaned, then apply with a brush a good coat of gum arabic; expose it to the sun to dry. In a short time it will crack and peel off. If all the gum should not peel off, wash it with clean water and a cloth. If the first application does not have the desired effect, it should be applied again.

**FACE WASH.**—The following forms a nice cooling wash for the face during the summer months, and removes freckles: Sweet almonds, five ounces; bitter almonds, one ounce; rose water, two pints and a half; white curd soap, half an ounce; spermaceti, half an ounce; white wax, half an ounce; English oil of lavender, twenty drops; otto of roses, twenty drops; rectified spirits, one pint. Blanch the almonds, and beat them up with the soap and a little of the rose water; melt together the oil of almonds, spermaceti, and white wax, and mix with the former into a cream, and strain it through thin muslin; then add gradually the remaining rose water, and, lastly, the spirit with the essential oils mixed therein.

**FRECKLES.**—For freckles no internal remedies will reach the seat of the trouble. In excessive freckling and moth-patches the color may be greatly lightened or removed by the frequent or constant use of washes capable of producing an unusually rapid casting off of the cells of the cuticle, but in no other way. Preparations sold for this purpose often contain very dangerous ingredients. A solution of borax in water (a drachm to the pint) will be of service in slight cases, applied night and morning.

**CORNS.**—To cure a corn soak the corn for one half hour in a

solution of soda, and pare it as close as possible, then apply a plaster of the following ingredients: Take of purified ammonia and yellow wax each two ounces, and of acetate of copper six drachms; melt the first two ingredients together, and, after removing them from the fire, add the acetate of copper just before they grow cold. Spread the ointment on a piece of soft leather or linen, applying it to the corn, removing it in two weeks. .

**INGROWING TOE-NAILS.**—To cure ingrowing toe-nails, begin the effort at cure by simple application to the tender part of a small quantity of perchloride of iron. It is found in drugstores in a fluid form, though sometimes in powder. There is immediately a moderate sensation of pain, constriction, or burning. In a few minutes the tender surface is felt to be dried up, tanned, or mummified, and it ceases to be painful. By permitting the hardened, wood-like flesh to remain for two or three weeks, it can be easily removed by soaking the foot in water. A new and healthy structure is found firm and solid below. If thereafter the nails be no more cut around the corner or sides, but always curved in across the front end, they will in future grow only forwards. When cutting the nails, take a piece of broken glass and scrape the top very thin; it makes the corners fly up and grow flat, so that it is impossible they should give you any pain.

**FOR BUNIONS.**—The following ointment is excellent for an inflamed bunion: Iodine, twelve grains; spermaceti ointment, half an ounce. A portion about the size of a horse bean to be rubbed on the affected part twice or thrice a day. If the bunion is not inflamed, the best remedy is to place on it first a piece of diachylon plaster, oxide of lead and oil, and upon it a piece of thick leather, this having a hole the size of the bunion cut in it.

**GREEN WRITING INK.**—Take 1 ounce of verdigris, and having pounded it, put it to 1 quart of vinegar; after it has stood two or three days strain off the liquid. Or, instead of this use of the crystals of verdigris, dissolved in water; then dissolve in 1 pint of either of these solutions, 5 drachms of gum arabic and 2 drachms of white sugar.

**TO CURE DANDRUFF.**—Dandruff is sometimes caused by neglecting to give the head the full amount of attention which is required to keep the hair in a healthy condition. In order to promote its full vigor, every head of hair should be thoroughly brushed once every day, and cleaned with a deterrent application, washed out with water, at least once each week. The following is a good hair-wash, which will assist in cleaning, if simply applied to the skin of the head where the suit of hair is very thick and difficult to dry, after a thorough wetting. A gentleman having short hair may easily pour the wash on his hair, rub it thoroughly, then rinse his entire head in a bowl of water, which is much the better plan. To prepare the wash, take one ounce of borax and half an ounce of gum camphor, powder and dissolve in one quart of boiling water. The solution is ready

for use as soon as cool. The hair should be dressed with a pomade, or the following, which is termed "Brazilian amber gloss," and composed of castor-oil, 1 pint; alcohol, 7 pints; oil of geranium, 1-2 ounce; oil of cloves, 1-4 ounce; oil of thyme, 1-4 ounce.

**GUN BARRELS.**—To blue or brown the barrel of a gun dissolve two parts of crystallized chloride of iron, two parts of solid chloride of antimony, and one part of gallic acid in four or five parts of water; apply with a small sponge, and let it dry in the air; repeat the application two or three times, then wash with water, dry, and rub with boiled linseed-oil to deepen the shade; repeat the application until you are satisfied with the result.

**HOW TO DYE IVORY.**—With regard to dyeing ivory, horn, bone, etc., it may be observed that the colors penetrate better before the surface is polished than afterward. Should any dark spots appear they may be cleared up by rubbing them with chalk; after which, the substance should be dyed once more to produce a perfect uniformity of shade. On taking it out of a boiling-hot dye-bath, it should be plunged immediately into cold water to prevent the chance of fissure being caused by the heat. Ivory may be dyed by any of the ordinary methods employed for woollens after first being freed from dirt and grease. To obtain a very deep shade of black, boil the substance for some time in a strained decoction of logwood, and then steep it in a solution of red sulphate or red acetate of iron.

**FOR RESTORING THE HAIR.**—When the hair, after being naturally luxuriant, becomes thin, use the following recipe: Take of extract of yellow Peruvian bark, fifteen grains; extract of rhatany root, eight grains; extract of burdock root and oil of nutmegs (fixed) of each, two drachms; camphor, dissolved with spirits of wine, fifteen grains; beef marrow, two ounces; best olive oil, one ounce; citron juice, half a drachm; aromatic essential oil, as much as sufficient to render it fragrant. Mix, and shake it into an ointment—two drachms of bergamot and a few drops of attar of roses would suffice. This is to be used every morning.

**TOOTHACHE.**—Toothache or neuralgic affection arising from the teeth in any state of decay may be cured by saturating a small bit of clean cotton or wool with a strong solution of ammonia, and applying it immediately to the affected tooth. The pleasing contrast instantaneously produced sometimes causes a fit of laughter, although a moment previous extreme pain and anguish prevailed.

**TO FIX COLORED PRINTS ON WINDOWS.**—Color the right side of the print in moist water colors, and in strong even washes. Prepare a solution, not too thick, of Canada balsam in rectified oil of turpentine. Coat the face of the coloring evenly with this, and fix the picture upon the window with a solution of gum-arabic. With a little care and attention you will be able to do this very nicely.

**TO REMOVE FLESH-WORMS.**—The simplest method to be rid of these blackheads is by placing a watch-key over the worm

and pressing gently, when it will come out into the barrel of the key; or by a gentle pressure beneath the nails of the opposite fingers, followed by the use of warm water and soap. Either of these methods is to be followed by the daily application of a lotion composed of thirty-six grains of subcarbonate of soda, dissolved in eight ounces of distilled water, that has been perfumed with six drachms of essence of roses.

**ROSE WATER.**—Dissolve attar of roses, six drachms avoirdupois, in strongest rectified spirit (hot), one imperial pint. Throw the solution into a twelve-gallon car-boy, and add ten gallons pure distilled water at 180 deg. Fahrenheit. At once cork the car-boy (at first loosely) and agitate the whole briskly (at first cautiously) until quite cold.

**HOW TO MAKE A WATER FILTER.**—Powdered charcoal and sand, equal parts, or about equal, affords efficient water filtration, providing the filtration is not constant. The filter will constantly purify itself by letting it rest every few hours, giving the air an opportunity to act upon the charcoal. If kept constantly at work the charcoal becomes inert, and the water is merely strained and only partially purified. We recommend filtered rain-water for general use—there is none more wholesome or better.

**TAN.**—Barley water, made thick, two fluid ounces; distilled water of bean flowers, two fluid ounces; spirits of wine, two fluid ounces. The skin is to be washed often with this solution, which will also drive away freckles and sunburn.

**SODA WATER.**—Dissolve one ounce of carbonate of soda in one gallon of water; put it into bottles, in the quantity of a tumblerful or half a pint to each; having the cork ready, drop into each bottle half a drachm of tartaric, or citric acid, or crystals; cork and wire it immediately, and it will be ready to use at any time.

**GREEN SEALING-WAX.**—Take of shellac, four parts; Venice turpentine, one part; melt them together, and add the proper color; the best greens are powdered verdigris, or else Scheele's green. The others are apt to turn black with the heat; so will even the last if too much heated. In this respect green bice is preferable, and, indeed, is next in quality to verdigris.

**GREEN OIL.**—1. Elder leaves, fresh, one pound; olive oil, two pints. Boil the leaves in the oil till crisp, press out the oil, and put it on the fire again till it acquires a fine green color. 2. Take three ounces each of the leaves of laurel, rue, camomile, wormwood, and marjoram, all fresh; olive oil, two pounds. Boil till crisp, press out the oil, and let them settle.

**GLUE VARNISH.**—This is much used by firework makers to stop up the ends of certain articles of their manufacture; also various military ammunition. It is also the usual ornamental varnish employed to decorate articles of these descriptions. It does not hang fire as a resin varnish would do, and it is itself incombustible; it consists of nothing more than common glue with red lead, or for common purposes Venetian red, mixed with it, till of proper color; it is laid on with a brush while hot.



**GOLD POWDER.**—1. Put into an earthen mortar some gold leaf with a little honey or thick gum water, and grind the mixture till the gold is reduced to extremely minute particles; when this is done, a little warm water will wash out the honey or gum, leaving the gold behind in a pulverulent state. 2. Add to the nitro-chloric solution of gold a little of the solution of sulphate of iron; metallic gold will be deposited in the state of a fine powder. It must be well washed before using. This powder has no metallic luster until rubbed.

**SOAP OF TURPENTINE.**—Take of carbonate of potass, one hundred parts; oil of turpentine, one hundred parts; Venice turpentine, one hundred parts. Triturate the carbonate of potass in a marble mortar, first with the oil and then with the Venice turpentine; when they are well mixed, grind by small portions at a time until it has acquired the consistence of hard honey, and has become homogeneous.

**BRASS-COATING.**—Brass plates and rods may be covered with a superficial coating of brass, by exposing them in a heated state to the fumes of melted zinc, at a high temperature. The celebrated spurious gold wire of Lyons is thus made. Vessels of copper may be coated with brass, internally, by filling them with water strongly acidulated with muriatic acid, adding some amalgam of zinc and cream of tartar, and then boiling for a short time.

**PAINT.**—To get rid of the smell of oil paint, plunge a handful of hay into a pailful of water, and let it stand in the room newly painted.

**SODA POWDER.**—In blue paper put thirty grains of carbonate of soda; in white paper, twenty-five grains of tartaric acid, and one-eighth grain tartarized antimony.

**PAINTING IN ENAMEL.**—Enamel painting is performed on plates of gold and silver, and most commonly of copper enameled with enamel; whereon they paint with colors which are melted in the fire, where they take a brightness and luster like that of glass. This painting is prized chiefly for its peculiar brightness and vivacity, which is very permanent; the force of its colors not being affected or sullied with time, as in other painting, and continuing always as fresh as when it came out of the workman's hand. It is usually in miniature, it being the more difficult the larger it is, by reason of certain accidents it is liable to in the operation. Enameling should only be practiced on plates of gold, the other metals being less pure. Copper, for instance, scales with the application, and yields fumes, and silver turns the yellow white. Nor must the place be made flat, for, in such case, the enamel cracks; to avoid which, they usually forge them a little round or oval, and not too thick. The plate being well and evenly forged, they usually begin the operation by laying on a couch of white enamel on both sides, which prevents the metal from swelling and blistering; and the first layer serves for the ground of all the other colors. The plate being thus prepared, they begin at first by drawing out exactly the subject to be painted with red vitriol, mixed with oil of spike, working all parts of that design very lightly with a



small pencil; after this, the colors which are to be before ground with mortar of agate extremely fine, and mixed with oil of spike somewhat thick, are to be laid on, observing the mixtures and colors that agree to the different parts of the subject, for which it is necessary to understand painting in miniature; but here the workman must be very cautious of the good or bad qualities of the oil of spike he employs to mix his colors with, for it is very subject to adulterations. Great care must be taken likewise that the least dust imaginable comes not to your colors, when you are either painting or grinding, for the least speck, when it is worked up with it, and when the work comes to be put into the reverberatory to be made red-hot, will leave a hole, and so deface the work. When the colors are all laid, the painting must be gently dried over a slow fire to evaporate the oil, and the colors afterwards melted to incorporate them with the enamel, making the plate red-hot in a fire, like that which the enameler uses. Afterwards that part of the painting must be passed over again which the fire has anything effaced, strengthening the shade and color, and committing it again to the fire, observing the same method as before, which is to be repeated till the work be finished.

**HOW TO LINE STAIR-CARPETS.**—It is a common practice to use bits of old carpets as a lining for stair-carpets, but a much better way is to take strips of an old bed-quilt, have them not quite the width of the staircase, wash and dry first, then put smoothly over the stairs, tacking in a few places. It is softer than old carpet, and will not wear the outer one nearly so much. Of course, this is a hint for those who cannot afford the nice linings that are made on purpose.

**HOW TO COVER CLOSET FLOORS.**—Do not put carpets in your closets; oil-cloth or matting is much better, and can be easily kept free from dust. Matting, after being swept, should be wiped with a damp cloth. Hot water and salt will thoroughly cleanse it, and will not discolor it. If one could afford to do it, it would be a healthful plan to lay aside the carpets of sleeping-rooms during the summer, and substitute the cool, fresh mattings. A great many people laugh in a somewhat scornful way at any new suggestion relating to matters of health; they think the old and tried ways of doing things are the best, without much regard to their results. In nothing are ignorance and narrow-mindedness more plainly shown than in this. "People didn't use to be so afraid of their drinking-water, and of glucose and such things, till these chemists and scientific men said so much about them," one man remarked to another. "I never pay any attention to 'em," was the reply, in a tone which settled the question, and precluded all possibility of discussion.

**VARNISH FOR VIOLINS.**—Take half a gallon of rectified spirits of wine, to which put six ounces of gum mastic and half a pint of turpentine varnish; put the above in a tin case, keep it in a very warm place, frequently shaking it until it is dissolved. Strain it and keep it for use. Should you find it harder than you desire, you may add a little more turpentine varnish.

**TO REMOVE PAINT LETTERING FROM WIRE GAUZE WINDOW-**

**BLINDS.**—Hold each portion of the letter at about an inch distant over the chimney of an argand gas-flame. In this manner treat every letter, or every part of the paint ornament, until the oil with which the color has been mixed becomes decomposed and charred. Allow the gauze to cool, and then wash it well with strong acetic (pyroligneous) acid, rubbing it occasionally until the paint is removed. Next wash and dry the blind, rub off adherent rust by means of a wire or hair-brush, and polish with black lead.

**BLACK IRON-WORK.**—Put forty-eight pounds of foreign asphaltum into an iron pot, and boil for four hours; during the first two hours introduce seven pounds of litharge, three pounds of dried copperas, and ten gallons of boiled oil; add one-eighth of a pound of dark gum lac, with two gallons of hot oil. After pouring the oil and gum, continue the boiling for two hours, or until it will roll into hard pills like japan. When cool, thin it off with thirty gallons of turpentine, or until it is of a proper consistence. This varnish is intended for blacking the iron-work of coaches and other carriages, etc.

**GILDING OF IRON.**—1. The iron bar, instrument, or vessel, is first made perfectly bright, then soaked in an acidulated liquor, and afterwards rubbed dry with whiting. Now prepare a solution of the sulphate of copper, and immerse the iron in it; in a few seconds the whole will become covered with a very beautiful but thin coat of copper, so as to appear entirely composed of that metal. The amalgam of gold is now to be applied, as in gilding copper, and put into the furnace for the separation of the mercury. 2. Pour some of the ethereal solution of gold into a wine-glass, and dip therein the blade of a new pen-knife, lancet, or razor; withdraw the instrument, and allow the ether to evaporate. The blade will be found to be covered with a very beautiful coat of gold. A clean rag, or small piece of sponge, may be dipped in the ether, and used to moisten the blade, with the same result. This coating of gold will remain upon the steel for a length of time, and will preserve it from rusting.

**HOW TO KEEP GLOVES FROM CROCKING.**—Black cotton gloves will not crock the hands if scalded in salt and water before wearing. The salt prevents fading. When almost dry, one should put them on, in order to stretch them and keep them in good shape.

**HOW TO WASH A LINEN DUSTER IN SUCH A WAY THAT IT WILL NOT LOOK FADED.**—All old colored linen should be washed in lukewarm water. If there are any grease-spots, use a little hard soap, or, better still, remove them with benzine. Rinse thoroughly in water in which a third of a cup of salt has been dissolved; the last water must be very blue, and a small handful of starch put in. Hang in a shady place; and, as soon as the duster is dry, take it down, so that the wind will not blow the starch out. If dampened with warm water, it will soon be ready to iron.

**PARCHMENT GLUE.**—Take one pound of parchment, and boil

it in six quarts of water till the quantity be reduced to one quart; then pour off the fluid from the dregs, and boil it again, till it be of the consistence of glue.

**ESSENCE OF PEPPERMINT.**—1. Spirits of wine, one pint; put into it one ounce of prepared kali previously heated; decant and add half an ounce of oil of peppermint. 2. Oil of peppermint, one pound; strong spirits of wine, two gallons; color with dried peppermint leaves, eight ounces. 3. Oil of peppermint, three ounces; spirits of wine, colored with spinach, two pints.

**SILVERING GLASS GLOBES.**—1. Melt together one ounce of clean lead and one ounce of fine tin in a clean iron ladle; then immediately add one ounce of bismuth. Skim off the dross, remove the ladle from the fire, and before it sets add ten ounces of quicksilver. Now stir the whole carefully together, taking care not to breathe over it, as the fumes of the mercury are very pernicious. Pour this through an earthen pipe into the glass globe, which turn repeatedly round. 2. To two ounces of quicksilver add as much tin-foil as will become barely fluid when mixed. Let the globe be clean and warm, and inject the quicksilver by means of a pipe at the aperture, turning it about till it is silvered all over. Let the remainder run out and hang the globe up.

**GILDING LIQUID.**—Take of fine gold five ounces (troy); nitro-muriatic acid, fifty-two ounces; dissolve by heat, and continue the heat until red or yellow vapors are evolved; decant the liquid into a proper vessel; add of distilled water four gallons; pure bicarbonate of potash, twenty pounds; boil for two hours.

**QUEEN'S CORDIAL.**—For three gallons, take two gallons of rectified spirit, one drachm of the oil of peppermint, two drachms of the oil of carraway seeds, one ounce of coriander seeds, one ounce of cassia, quarter of an ounce of mace, one pint of spirits of wine, and two pints of syrup; fill it up with water, and clarify with alum.

**QUEEN'S METAL.**—Take four and a half pounds of tin, half a pound of bismuth, half a pound of antimony, and half a pound of lead. Or, one hundred pounds of tin, eight pounds of antimony, one pound of bismuth, and four pounds of copper. This alloy is used for making teapots and other vessels which imitate silver.

**THE USE OF VARNISH.**—No one knows until she has tried it how much she may change the aspect of things about the house by using a little varnish. On a sunshiny day take the old chairs and tables out on the porch or by an open door, and after thoroughly dusting and wiping off with a damp cloth, apply a thin coat of varnish, and so cover up scratches and marred spots of all kinds. It will dry in a short time, and you will be surprised to see how much good you have done. A flannel cloth, with a very little linseed oil, is good to rub furniture with; but the greatest care must be exercised to prevent any oil being left on the wood to attract dust. It must be rubbed until you would not know, except by the improved appearance, that any oil had been used. Coach varnish, which is heavier than

the ordinary kind used on furniture, will make oil-cloths look as good as new. Wash and wipe before applying the varnish. Be careful not to step on them until they are dry. If this is done every spring, the oil-cloths will last twice as long as they will without it.

**INFLAMED EYES.**—Bathe the eyes with a lotion formed of twelve grains of sulphate of zinc, one dracem of wine of opium, and six ounces of rose water.

**ROSE OIL.**—Put any quantity of dried rose leaves into an earthenware pipkin, cover them with olive-oil, and keep hot for some hours. The oil will extract both odor and color. This oil has great effect in preserving the hair, preventing it from turning prematurely gray, and improving it in every respect.

**TO CLEAN GOLD LACE.**—Gold lace is easily cleaned and restored to its original brightness by rubbing it with a soft brush dipped in roche-alum burnt, sifted to a very fine powder.

**RAZOR PASTE.**—1. Finely washed oxide of tin (putty powder), one ounce; powdered oxalic acid, quarter of an ounce; powdered gum, twenty grains. Make into a stiff paste with water. 2. Emery reduced to a very fine powder, two parts; spermaceti ointment, one part. 3. Jeweler's rouge, or crocus, and suet, equal parts. 4. The last, with the addition of an equal part of black lead. 5. Diamond dust, one part; powdered chalk, or red ochre, one part. 6. The snuff of a tallow candle made into a paste with grease of any kind.

**HOW TO PRESERVE BIRD SKINS.**—1. Thoroughly cover them with a mixture of salt and alum—two parts of the former and one of the latter—this mixture having a tendency to tan the skins as well as keep them sweet. Fill all the cavities—the mouth, eye-sockets, brain-pan, skins of the legs and wings—with the same mixture, and then carefully fold and lay it in a dry, warm place. If you intend to keep the skin a long time before mounting, give it a good sprinkling with red pepper, and seal it up in a common manilla-paper bag, to protect it from moths. In this way it may be kept in good preservation for a long time. 2. In “setting up” the specimen—a technical term for “mounting”—it would be well to adhere to the following rules laid down by one who has had much experience: Make a cross by twisting together two small wires—one long enough to reach from the head to the root of the tail, and the other to extend as far as the outspread wings may reach. Put this inside the skin, which must have been soaked in water till it is as soft as when taken from the bird. Stuff in around it tow or cotton, or any soft substance, thoroughly saturated with camphor or red pepper. Procure glass eyes, made to exactly imitate the bird's eyes, at any bird store, or from a dealer in taxidermist's materials. Put other wires inside the skin of the legs, and let the ends protrude far enough to serve for fastening the feet to a little block of wood. If you desire to have the bird look life-like, carefully sew up the breast, and then give the bird any desired position by bending the wires. Lastly, bind it about in every direction with twine, and allow it to remain un-

disturbed for ten days, in order that it may become dry. Great care should be exercised in placing all feathers which may have become misplaced or rumpled in their appropriate position. You can procure, through a newsdealer or bookseller in your town, a book bearing upon the subject of taxidermy, from which you will obtain fuller information on the subject than can be given in this limited space.

**HOW TO MAKE SEALING-WAX.**—To make a fine red sealing-wax melt cautiously four ounces of very pale shellac, in a bright copper pan, over a clear charcoal fire, at the lowest degree of heat necessary to melt it. When melted, stir in one and a quarter ounces of Venice turpentine (previously warmed), followed by three ounces of vermillion. The heat must not be too much nor too little, but just sufficient to allow of a most thorough mixing of the ingredients. When this is accomplished, the fluid mass should be poured into suitable metallic molds and left to cool. The addition of a little alcohol to the shellac will cause it to melt more easily. These sticks of sealing-wax have no polish, and to produce this they have to be heated again on the surface. In order to do this they should be put into other molds, made of polished steel, which are engraved with the desired ornamentations. These molds are to be heated only just sufficient to melt the sealing-wax on the surface, by which operation the sticks attain a beautiful, glossy appearance. The heating of the mold to stamp the mark of the manufacturer may be performed with a spirit-lamp. The addition of a little balsam of Peru, liquid storax, musk, or ambergris, or any of the fragrant essential oils, to the ingredients, when considerably cooled, will give a very pleasant odor to the sealing-wax.

**TO PREPARE SUGAR FOR CANDIES.**—The confectioner requires different degrees of boiling in order to bring the sugar to the proper state for the various articles he prepares. Well clarified and perfectly transparent syrup is boiled until a skimmer dipped into it, and a portion touched between the forefinger and thumb, on opening them, is drawn into a small thread, which crystallizes and breaks. This is called a "weak candy height." If boiled again, it will draw into a larger string, and if bladders may be blown with the mouth through the drippings from the ladle, it has acquired the second degree, and is known as "bloom sugar." After still further boiling, it arrives at the state called "feathered sugar." To determine this the confectioner dips the skimmer and shakes it over the pan, then gives it a sudden flirt or jerk, and the sugar will fly off like feathers. The next degree is that of "crackled sugar," in which state the sugar that hangs to a stick dipped into it and put directly into cold water is not dissolved off, but turns hard and snaps. The last stage of boiling reduces it to "caramel sugar," and is proved by dipping a stick into the sugar and then into cold water, when, on the moment it touches the water, it will snap like glass. It has now arrived at "full candy height." In boiling sugar the heat must not be too fierce, as the syrup will become discolored. The best safeguard against this appears to be the



use of steam heat. Color may be given to the candy by adding the coloring matter to the syrup before boiling it. Flavoring essences are added when the process is nearly completed.

**TO DRY FRUITS.**—In order to dry apples, pears, quinces and other fruits, have a frame made in the following manner: Two strips of board seven feet long, two or two and a half inches wide, and two strips three feet long and one and a half inches wide, the whole three-quarters of an inch thick. Nail the long strips across the ends of the short ones, and thus make a frame seven by three feet, a convenient size for all purposes. On one of the long strips nails are to be driven three inches apart, extending from one end to the other. After the apples are pared, quarter and core them, and with a needle and twine, or stout thread, string them into lengths sufficient to reach twice across the frame. Then tie the ends of the twine, and hang the strings of fruit on the nails spoken of above. The apples or pears, or whatever fruit that can be strung in the manner described, will soon dry, and may be removed from the strings, and more placed on them. In pleasant weather the frames can be set out of doors against the side of a building or any other support, and at night, or on cloudy or stormy days, they can be brought into the house and set near the stove or fire-place.

**TO PREVENT PLANKS FROM CRACKING.**—By applying a solution of muriatic acid and lime to the ends of logs or planks, in the same manner as whitewash, the difficulty will be obviated, as the chloride of calcium which is formed attracts moisture from the air and prevents splitting. Tobacconists' signs and other wooden images generally have a hole bored through their center from top to bottom, this in a great measure preventing the outer surface from cracking, by allowing the wood to dry and shrink uniformly.

**POLISHING PASTE FOR TINS, BRASSES, AND COPPER.**—This is composed of rotten stone, soft soap, and oil of turpentine; the stone must be powdered and sifted through a muslin or hair sieve; mix with it as much soft soap as will bring it to the stiffness of putty; to half a pound of this, add two ounces of oil of turpentine; it may be made into balls; it will soon become hard, and will keep any length of time. Method of using: The articles to be polished should be perfectly free from grease and dirt; moisten a little of the paste with water, smear it over the metal, rub briskly with a dry rag or leather, and it will soon bear a beautiful polish. A good stove polish may be made of black lead mixed with the white of an egg. Put on with a brush, and polish with a dry hard brush. To make an excellent furniture polish: take turpentine, linseed oil, and vinegar, in equal proportions; apply and rub with flannel. A little soap put on the hinges or latch of a door will stop its creaking. Salt will curdle milk, hence in preparing gravies, porridge, etc., the salt should not be added till the dish is prepared. If your flat-irons are rough, or soiled, lay some salt on a flat surface and rub the face of the iron well over it. Rub your griddle with fine salt before you grease it, and your cakes will not stick. When

clothes have acquired an unpleasant odor by being from the air, charcoal laid in the folds will soon remove it.

**BURLAP MATS.**—A handsome and inexpensive mat for the floor may be made of burlap worked in cross-stitch with different-colored worsteds. Use for it the odds and ends left from other fancy work. Work a few stitches of one color and then of another, just as the colors happen to come, and the effect is like that of a Persian pattern. If one cares to spend so much time on it, a center-piece and a border add much to the beauty of it. The mat may be lined with a piece of carpet, or with matting or new ticking, and the edge finished with worsted fringe or with flannel cut in scallops.

**TO KEEP BOYS AND GIRLS AT HOME.**—An excellent and well-tried recipe for keeping boys and girls out of mischief in the long winter evenings is to give them something suitable and interesting to do. Set them to making scrap-books. If there are two or three children, let each one take a subject, and see what and how much he can collect upon that for his book. For example, we have what we call an "Animal Scrap-Book," in which is pasted every fact, incident, and anecdote we can find relating to animals. We have a dog department, a horse department, etc. It is a valuable book for purposes of illustration or reference.

**VARNISHES TO POLISH.**—The process is effected with pumice-stone and tripoli earth. The pumice-stone must be reduced to an impalpable powder and put upon a piece of serge moistened with water; with this rub lightly and equally the varnished surface. The tripoli must also be reduced to a very fine powder and put upon a clean woolen cloth moistened with olive oil, with which the polishing is to be performed. The varnish is then to be wiped off with soft linen, and when quite dry cleaned with starch or Spanish white, and rubbed with the palm of the hand. Colors for varnishes—Black: Lampblack, carefully washed and afterwards dried; or black obtained from burnt vine-twigs or peach-stones. Yellow: Yellow ochre and yellow pink, Naples and Montpelier yellows. In mixing up the last two, a horn or ivory spatula, with a glass pestle and mortar, must be used, because these yellows are hurt if touched with steel or iron. Blue: Indigo, Persian blue, blue verditer and ultramarine. All these must be finely powdered. Green: Verdigris, distilled or crystallized verdigris and green compounded of yellow and blue. The verdigris will require a mixture of white, varying from one-fourth to two-thirds, according to the tint required. Either white lead, Spanish white or ceruse may be used for this purpose. Red: Vermillion, red lead, red ochre.

**WASHING TOWELS.**—Towels with handsome, bright borders should never be boiled or allowed to lie in very hot water; they should not be used till they are so much soiled that they need vigorous rubbing to make them clean. It is better economy to use more towels than to wear out a few in a short time. A gentle rubbing in two suds, and then conscientious rinsing in warm water and then in cold, ought to be all that is required.

**HOW TO POLISH A STOVE EASILY.**—If a little vinegar or some cider is mixed with stove-polish, it will not take much rubbing to make the stove bright, and the blacking is not likely to fly off in fine dust.

**GILDING.**—In gilding on metals let the articles be well cleaned and polished; then apply the following powder by friction with a piece of cork, moistened with salt and water, after which burnish with a blood-stone burnisher. The powder is thus made: Take pure gold five drachms, pure copper one drachm, aqua regia ten ounces. Dissolve the metals in the acid, soak clean linen rags in the solution, dry and burn them, and carefully collect the ashes, which contain the gold in a state of minute division. Another process for gilding is as follows: The article to be gilt being either copper, brass, or silver, is first made quite bright, then it is rubbed over with amalgam of gold. This will adhere to the surface. The next part of the process is to put the article gilt into an oven, that the quicksilver of the amalgam may be evaporated. The gold is now left as a black powder, which requires only rubbing over strongly with a stiff, long-haired brush, and afterwards be washed with vinegar and water, and lastly with water only.

**PRETTY AND SIMPLE ORNAMENTS.**—A pretty decoration for the corner of a room is a bunch of ripe wheat tied with a bright ribbon; or divide the wheat across the stems, tie, and hang over a picture. The beauty of common things is fully established; cat's-tails, sunflowers, and dandelions are at length appreciated. Acorns may also be used to good advantage for trimming fancy baskets for waste paper; take a piece of wire and fasten around the stems, and you can arrange them in any way to suit yourself. They are pretty bronzed, or may be used in the state of nature, as they were picked up in the woods. To bronze them, get a little bronze powder at a drug-store, mix it with varnish, and apply with a soft cloth. The powder must be used very quickly after mixing with the varnish, or that will harden so that it will be impossible to use it.

**MOTHS.**—Professor Riley says, in a scientific journal, that the early days of May should herald vigorous and exterminating warfare upon those subtle pests, clothes moths; closets, wardrobes, etc., should be emptied and the clothing laid open and thoroughly exposed to light and air, and well brushed before being replaced. Spirits of turpentine should be brushed in cracks, wainscots, and shelves, and camphor or tobacco placed among the garments, furs, plumes, etc., when laid aside for the summer. To secure the cloth linings of carriages from moths, sponge them on both sides with a solution of corrosive sublimate or mercury in alcohol, made just strong enough not to leave a white mark on a black feather.

**SALT AND MOTHS.**—It is said, and by good authority, that after wiping up the floor, if salt is sprinkled over it while damp, moths will not try that harbor again. When making a carpet it is recommended that enough be allowed to fold under an inch or two, so that when it is put down, salt can be spread between the folds, and also sprinkle salt all around the sides and corners

of the room before nailing the carpet. We have never tried this, but have several good authorities who endorse it, and promise that moths will not injure carpets if this advice is followed.

**HAIR RECEIVERS.**—The little Japanese parasols, which can be bought for four or five cents, make very pretty hair-receivers. Open them about half their extent; if necessary to make them stay half open, catch them with a few stitches. Put a loop of ribbon around the handle and hang them up.

**SHAVING CASES.**—The prettiest shaving cases I have ever seen are made by using for a foundation little Japanese fans. Cover the fan with silk or silesia, or combine; cut a piece of paste-board the size of the fan, and, as this is to be the outside of the case, cover it with silk or satin, trim the edge with narrow lace or with plaited ribbon, ornament it with a bow, or paint a spray of flowers on it, or put on neatly a pretty transfer picture, or an initial, according to the means and taste of the maker. Fasten the paper leaves which may be pinked to the fan part, and then put on the cover, catching it with silk to the upper part of the fan near the handle. Put a loop of ribbon or chenille at the end of the handle to hang it up by. This is an acceptable gift for a gentleman.

**TO CLEAN MARBLE.**—Take two parts of common soda, one part of pumice-stone, and one part of finely-powdered chalk; sift it through a fine sieve, and mix it with water; then rub it well all over the marble, and the stains will be removed; rub the marble over with salt and water.

**TO CLEAN TINWARE.**—The best thing for cleaning tinware is common soda; dampen a cloth, dip it in soda, rub the ware briskly, after which, wipe dry.

**TO CLEAN CUT-GLASS.**—Having washed cut-glass articles, let them dry, and afterwards rub them with prepared chalk and a soft brush, carefully going into all the cavities.

**WEAK EYES.**—For weak eyes, take half an ounce of rock salt and one ounce dry sulphate of zinc; simmer in a perfectly clean covered porcelain vessel with three pints of water, until all are dissolved; strain through thick muslin, add one ounce of rose water; bottle and cork it tight. To use it, mix one teaspoonful of rain water with one of eye water, and bathe the eyes, if weak, frequently. If it smarts too much, add more water; if not enough, make it a little stronger by adding more eye water. This is an admirable wash for weak eyes. It cannot be excelled.

**TO CLEAN WOOLEN AND SILK SHAWLS.**—Pare and grate raw mealy potatoes, and put to each pint of the potato pulp a couple of quarts of cold water. Let it stand five hours, then strain the water through a sieve, and rub as much of the potato pulp through as possible; let the strained water stand to settle again; when very clear, turn the water off from the dregs carefully. Put a clean white cotton sheet on a perfectly clean table, lay on the shawl which you wish to clean, and pin it down tight. Dip a sponge, that has never been used, into the potato water, and rub the shawl with it till clean; then rinse the shawl in clear water, with a tea-cup of salt to a pailful of water.



Spread it on a clean, level place, where it will dry quick—if hung up to dry, the colors are apt to run, and make the shawl streaked. Fold it up while damp, and let it remain half an hour, then put it in a mangle—if you have not one, wrap it in a clean white cloth, and put it under a weight, and let it remain till dry. If there are any grease spots on the shawl, they should be extracted before the shawl is washed.

**HOME-MADE WORK-BASKETS.**—Pretty little work-baskets may be made of—what do you think? the paper pails used to carry oysters home from the market in! I saw one a few days ago; it was lined with pale pink silk, the soft silk used for linings. The silk was turned over the outer edge and shirred around it. The wire handle was taken off, and a narrow strip of canvas used in place of it. This was covered with silk and ornamented with a tiny bow. On each side of the pail was pasted a pretty picture. One would not guess of what the basket was made.

**PUTTING AWAY WOOLEN CLOTHES.**—Great care must be exercised in putting away winter clothes. Clean paper sacks, or old cotton or linen pillow-cases, will do to hold them, providing there are no holes in them. Take the garments that are to be laid away out-doors on a summer day, let them hang on a line for several hours, brush and beat all the dust out, then put into the bags; tie them up so that no moth can get in, then lay them on clean, dry shelves, or hang them up.

**TO CLEAN ENGRAVINGS, PRINTS, OR UNCOLORED LITHOGRAPHS.**—Free the paper from traces of dust, and float it, face downward, for half an hour or more on the surface of a clear solution of six ounces of fresh chloride of lime—calcium hypochlorite—in a pint of soft cold water contained in a shallow porcelain dish. Float on the surface of water containing about three drachms of sulphuric acid to the pint. If not then white enough, repeat the operations, and finally rinse thoroughly in a spray of clear cold water, and dry between clean blotting-pads under pressure. Colored lithographs cannot be safely cleansed by this or other chemical treatment.

**INDELIBLE INK.**—An excellent ink of this kind may be prepared by rubbing up one drachm of aniline black with a mixture of sixty drops of concentrated hydrochloric acid, and one and one-half ounce of alcohol. The resulting deep blue liquid is then to be diluted with a hot solution of one and one-half drachms of gum arabic in six ounces of water. This ink does not corrode a steel pen, and is affected neither by concentrated mineral acids nor by strong lye. If the aniline black solution be diluted with one and one-half ounces of shellac, dissolved in six ounces of alcohol, instead of with gum water, an aniline black is obtained, which, after being applied to wood stained black, brass or leather, is remarkable for its extraordinary deep black color.

**AN ECONOMICAL CRUMB-CLOTH.**—A red table-cloth that is too much faded to be used on the table makes a good crumb-cloth. Starch it as stiff as you can easily, iron perfectly smooth, taking



care to pull the edges straight and even; pin it to the carpet instead of tacking it, as then it will not be so much trouble to take it up, and you will wash it just as soon as it needs it. It will keep clean a long time, and, even if you can afford a handsome cloth, it is convenient to use this when the other is up to be cleaned.

**HOW TO MAKE A SAND-BAG.**—Get some clean, fine sand, dry it thoroughly in a kettle on the stove. Make a bag about eight inches square of flannel, fill it with the dry sand, sew the opening carefully together, and cover the bag with cotton or linen cloth. This will prevent the sand from sifting out, and will also enable you to heat the bag quickly by placing it in the oven, or even on the top of the stove. After once using this no one will ever attempt to warm the feet and hands of a sick person with a bottle of hot water or a brick. The sand holds the heat a long time, and the bag can be tucked up to the back without hurting one. It is a good plan to make two or three of these bags, and keep them ready for use. Children with toothache can be put to sleep many a time with one.

**TO CLEAN PAINT.**—Tea leaves may be saved from the table for a few days, and when sufficient are collected, steep, not boil, them for half an hour in a tin pan. Strain the water off through a sieve, and use this tea to wash all varnished paint. It removes spots, and gives a fresher, newer appearance than when soap and water is used. For white paint, take up a small quantity of whiting on a damp piece of old white flannel, and rub over the surface lightly, and it will leave the paint remarkably bright and new.

**TO RAISE THE PILE OF VELVET.**—Cover a hot smoothing-iron with a wet cloth, hold the velvet firmly over it; the vapor rising will raise the pile of the velvet with the assistance of a light whisk.

**TO TAKE MILDEW FROM LINEN.**—Rub the spots with soap; scrape chalk over it and rub it well; lay it on the grass, in the sun; as it dries, wet it a little; it will come out with two applications.

**FOR SILVERING BRASS.**—Cut into small pieces a twenty-five cent piece, and put it in an earthen vessel with half an ounce of nitric acid. Put the vessel into warm water, uncovered, until it dissolves. Add half gill of water, and one teaspoonful of fine salt, and let it settle. Drain off, and repeat, adding water to the sediment until the acid taste is all out of the water. Add finally about one pint of water into the sediment, and four scruples cyanide of potassium. Put into the solution a piece of zinc about two inches long, one wide, and one-eighth in thickness. After cleaning, immerse the article to be plated in the solution about half a minute, letting it rest on the zinc. Wipe off with a dry cloth, and repeat once. Polish with buckskin.

**INK.**—Inks of various colors may be made in the modes following—they are very beautiful and frequently of considerable utility: For red ink, boil an ounce of fine chips of Brazil-wood in half a pint of water for a quarter of an hour; add to the

decoction three drachms of gum-arabic, and as much alum as it will dissolve. For blue, diffuse Prussian blue or indigo through strong gum-water. Inks of other colors may be made from a decoction of the materials used in dyeing, mixed with a little alum and gum-arabic.

**STAMMERING.**—Stammering is an impediment in the speech, characterized by an inability or difficulty in properly enunciating some of the elementary sounds, particularly the letter *s* in some of its complex combinations. The convulsive efforts of its victim to surmount the obstacles—thus compelling him to stammer over the difficult term—make him peculiarly sensitive to the ridicule of listeners, and his sensitiveness should secure him courteous treatment. This affliction is often met with in bright but diffident children, and if proper care be taken by the parent to see that the child forms the habit of distinctly articulating every sound, the practice will be ultimately outgrown. Such a stuttering may arise from a variety of causes, such as cleft palate or enlarged tonsils. In most cases, however, the cause is a purely nervous, though mysterious one, not connected with any organic condition whatever, though it may result from nervous exhaustion. Each case in maturer life should be treated by itself, by some competent teacher of elocution, who will thoroughly train the pupil to control his speech by appropriate discipline. If the patient will put forth his powers of self-control, this affliction may be cured speedily.

**OPHTHALMIC OINTMENT.**—Red precipitate of mercury and lapis calaminaris, of each, one and a half drachms; litharge, one drachm; white oxide of zinc, half a drachm; cinnabar, one scruple; hog's lard, two ounces; Peruvian balsam, fifteen drops. Useful for removing specks from the eyes, arising from small ulcers which have healed up.

**PERSPIRATION.**—Offensive perspiration of the feet is a complaint from which many people suffer. It is often the cause of the greatest mental anxiety. We will give a few directions for its treatment. In the first place the condition of the general health should be investigated. Should any fault be detected, it must be set right. For anæmia, or poorness of blood, iron is the remedy; for loss of appetite, quinine; for general debility, cod-liver oil; for mental anxiety or overwork, the hypophosphites. The bowels should be kept regular. Out-door exercise should be taken daily. Stimulants are allowable only in the strictest moderation. Scrupulous care should be paid to cleanliness. A cold bath should be taken every morning. The feet should be washed in tepid water night and morning, and oftener if possible. The addition of sea salt to the water may do good, but when the perspiration has a sour, acrid odor, a little vinegar is better. The socks should be changed as soon as soiled, and they should be thoroughly washed each time, and not merely dried. The boots should have broad soles and square toes, so as not to cramp the feet; patent leather is to be avoided, and the same pair should not be worn every day. A dusting powder composed of equal parts of oxide of zinc and starch often prove useful; it should be sprinkled freely inside the socks. Belladonna

liniment rubbed into the feet three or four times a day often effects a cure. Sometimes it fails, but on the whole it is a very reliable mode of treatment. Liquid extract of ergot in fifteen-drop doses three or four times a day, sometimes does good. Some doctors employ an ointment composed of equal parts of lead plaster and linseed oil, spread on linen and wrapped round the feet, the application being renewed every third day for nine days.

**NOSE-BLEEDING.**—The best remedy for bleeding at the nose, as given by Dr. Glasson in one of his lectures, is a vigorous motion of the jaws, as if in the act of mastication. In the case of a child, a wad of paper should be placed in its mouth, and the child instructed to chew it hard. It is the motion of the jaws that stops the flow of blood. This remedy is so very simple that many will feel inclined to laugh at it; but it has never been known to fail—not even in very severe cases.

**BIRD-LIME** is made from either linseed or the inner bark of the holly tree. In either case the process is the same—viz., by boiling until the required consistency is attained. Of the two the holly-bark makes the most tenacious bird-lime, but that from linseed is more easily procured.

**WOOL DYEING.**—To dye wool and woollen cloth of a blue color. Dissolve one part of indigo in four parts of concentrated sulphuric acid; to the solution add one part of dry carbonate of potash, and then dilute it with eight times its weight of water. The cloth must be boiled for an hour in a solution containing five parts of alum and three of tartar for every thirty-two parts of cloth. It is then to be thrown into a water-bath, previously prepared, containing a greater or smaller proportion of diluted sulphate of indigo, according to the shade which the cloth is intended to receive. In this bath it must be boiled till it has acquired the wished-for color.

**BOOKBINDERS' VARNISH.**—Three ounces of coarsely-pounded glass, separated from the dust by shaking it through a sieve; six ounces mastic in drops; thirty-two ounces spirits of wine of forty degrees. Put the ingredients in a sand-bath, and place over a fire; stir well all the time till they boil. When well mixed, add three ounces spirits of turpentine; boil for half an hour, remove from the fire, let it cool, and strain through cotton cloth. Another recipe is: Three pints of spirits of wine of forty degrees, eight ounces sandarach, two ounces mastic in drops, eight ounces shellac, and two ounces Venice turpentine. Prepare as above, and apply on the book with a piece of cotton wool, a small sponge, or a brush.

**TO REMOVE FLOWER OR FRUIT STAINS.**—Thorough rubbing with soap and soft water, repeated dipping in sour buttermilk and drying in the sun, rubbing in a thick mixture of starch and cold water and exposing long to sun and air, are among the expedients resorted to. Sulphurous acid is often employed to bleach out colors. It may be generated at the moment of using by burning a small piece of sulphur in the air under the wide

end of a small paper funnel whose upper orifice is applied to the cloth.

To cure a felon, try the following: As soon as discovered, take some spirits of turpentine in a cup, dip the finger in it, and then hold the hand near a hot fire till dry; then dip it in again, and repeat for fifteen minutes, or until pain ceases. The next day, with a sharp knife, pare off the thick skin, and you will find something like a honeycomb filled with water; open the cells and the felon is gone. If the felon is too far advanced for the turpentine, oil of origanum treated in the same way will cure. If too far advanced for either to cure, the felon will still be benefited, for it will be less painful. Never draw it.

A good ointment for chapped hands or broken chilblains: Venice turpentine, three ounces; sweet-oil, one pint; hog's lard, half a pound; beeswax, three ounces. Put all these ingredients into a pipkin over a slow fire, and stir them with a wooden spoon till the beeswax is melted, and the mixture simmers. The longer it is kept the better it becomes. It must be spread very thin on a soft rag, or (for chaps or cracks) rubbed on the hands when you go to bed. You can prevent chaps by rubbing the hands with the following mixture: Melt three drachms of spermaceti and four drachms of white wax with one ounce of almond oil, and stir in three drachms of camphor (previously powdered by moistening it with a little spirits of wine); pour this into small gallipots, so as to form little cakes. If flower of sulphur mixed with a small quantity of milk, and after standing for an hour or two, the milk (without stirring up the sulphur), be rubbed into the skin, it will keep it soft and make the complexion clear.

POP-CORN BALLS are made by the following method, the proportions being given for a half bushel of corn, which will make about a hundred balls. The corn is to be put into a pan and kept covered tightly until it has stopped popping, when it may be removed to a table. Then put a little water into a suitable kettle, with one pound of sugar, and boil as if candy until it becomes quite waxy. Remove from the fire, and dip into it six or seven tablespoonfuls of thick gum solution, made by boiling water upon gum arabic over night, or some time before. Now dip the mixture on different parts of the corn, lifting up and mixing until the corn is all saturated with the candy mixture. Then with the hands press the corn into balls, as the boys do snow-balls, being quick lest it may set ere you get through. White or brown sugar may be used. For variety, take white sugar for a part, and molasses or brown sugar for another batch.

ICE CREAM.—In making ice creams the following articles are required:—Pewter ice-pot, with tightly fitting lids, furnished with handles; wooden ice-pails, stoutly made, about the same depth as the ice-pots, and nine or ten inches more in diameter, each having a hole in the side, fitted with a good cork, for drawing off the water from the melted ice. Also a broad spatula, about four inches long, rounded at the end, and furnished with a big wooden handle is necessary, to scrape the frozen cream



from the sides of the ice-pot, and for mixing the whole smoothly together. To make strawberry ice-cream, take one pint of fresh strawberries (if not in season, strawberry-jam), one pint of cream, half a pound of powdered white sugar, and the juice of a lemon. Mash the fruit through a fine sieve, and take out the seeds; mix with the other articles; add a little new milk, and put the mixture in the ice-pot; cover it with the lid, and put the pot in the ice-pail, after which proceed to fill up with coarsely-pounded ice and salt in the proportion of about one part of salt to three of ice: let the whole remain a few minutes, then whirl the pot briskly by the handle for a few minutes; take off the lid, and with the spatula scrape the iced cream from the sides, mixing the whole smoothly; put on the lid and whirl again, repeating all the operations every few minutes, until the whole of the cream is well frozen.

**HOREHOUND.**—The horehound has long been a popular remedy for coughs; and whenever the belief in any herb is found general, there are good grounds for presuming it possesses virtue. It is employed in the subjoined form, in cases of troublesome chronic cough, particularly in that species which is found so frequently after attacks of influenza and other severe forms of cold, and has invariably been found to restore the tone of the system and subdue irritation, after more valued remedies have been employed in vain. Take five and a half ounces of the decoction of horehound (*marrubium vulgare*); three grains of lupuline; one drachm of hydrocyanic acid, and three drachms of syrup of poppies. Mix them together, and take one or two spoonfuls three times a day. The decoction is prepared by boiling four ounces of the recent plant in a pint and a half of spring water till reduced to half the quantity. If the lupuline is difficult to procure, the pollen of hop, or the extract of hop, may be substituted.

**INK-STAINS** [on mahogany or black walnut furniture may be removed by touching the stains with a feather wet in a solution of nitre and water—eight drops to a spoonful of water. As soon as the spot disappears, rub the place at once with a cloth wet with cold water. If the ink-stains then remain, repeat, making the solution stronger. Silver that is not in use may be kept from tarnishing by burying it in a box or barrel of oatmeal. The most effectual means of taking ink-stains out of paper is to soak it in water with which chlorine has been combined. Valuable prints may thus be renovated without damage, as chlorine has no effect upon printing ink.

**TO START A FIRE**—If you have no kindling, and feel that oil must be used to start the fire, try this method: Take a small paper bag, pour a little oil into it, and run with it to the stove; in this way you can start a fire quickly without dropping oil on the floor, or endangering your life. It would be better not to use oil at all for this purpose.

**HOW TO USE THE OIL STOVE.**—A few suggestions in regard to the use of oil stove may be of value to some one who does not succeed well in using it. Complaints are frequently made that a meal cannot be put hot upon the table if cooked on the single



oil stove. My plan is this: If I am to get breakfast by it, the first thing is to boil the water for coffee, have the coffee in the pot, with some soft paper stuffed in the nose. When the water boils, pour a little on the coffee, cover closely, and set it one side. Then warm the potatoes; when thoroughly cooked, cover them and set one side. If beefsteak is preferred to cold meat, cook that; the stove being very hot, it will cook quickly. Then, as you take the steak off with one hand, with the other set the potatoes back on the stove. While you are preparing the steak for the table, the potatoes will be getting hot; while taking them off, set the coffee-pot back on the stove. Of course, one must be very quick in her motions. Dinner may in the same way be put smoking on the table, and the housewife herself, cool and fresh, will enjoy the meal as well as any member of the family. Any one who keeps plants in a room where there is no fire at night, or in a bay window, may prevent their freezing by lighting the oil stove and placing it near them. Canned fruit and vegetables may, also, in this way be kept from freezing. One who has never tried it will be surprised to notice how much heat is given out.

**HOW TO CLEAN GLOVES.**—Get one quart of deodorized benzine, one drachm of sulphuric ether, one drachm of chloroform, and two drachms of alcohol. Cologne oil can be added if desired. Pour a little of this into a clean bowl, and wash the gloves in it as you would wash anything. After the dirt is nearly out, rinse in more of the clean fluid. Usually one rinsing is enough, but if the gloves are very much soiled, rinse the second time. If the gloves are of cheap kid, it is best to dry them on the hand; but a nice glove, after having been rubbed with a soft cloth to smooth out wrinkles, may be hung on a line to dry. This preparation is an excellent thing to keep in the house, not only for cleaning gloves, but for taking out grease-spots from carpets and clothing, and for sponging coat-collars and felt hats.

[THE END.]

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